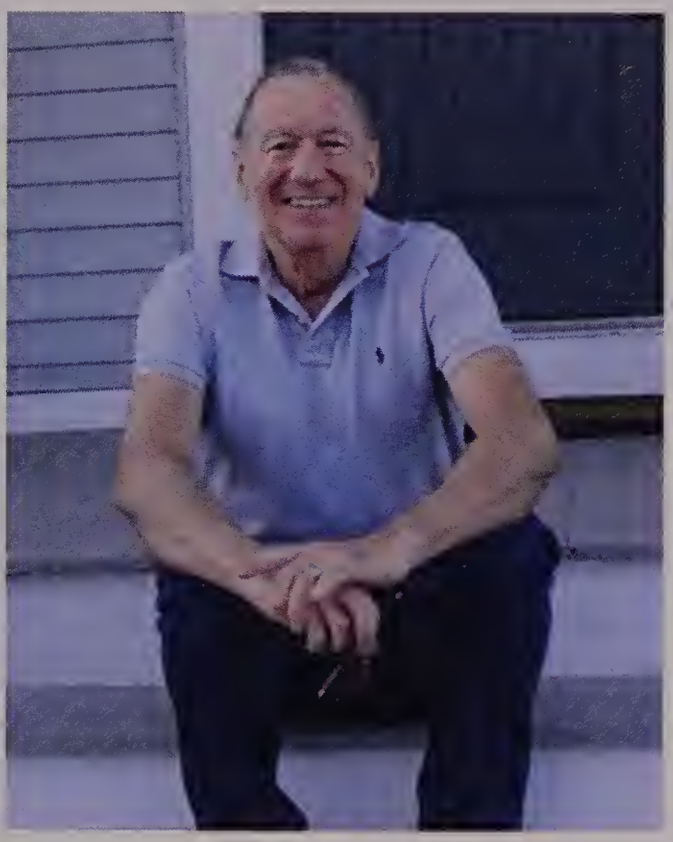
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS

TOWN
OF
WESTHAMPTON

FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014

DEDICATION



John F. Shaw

Once again the Selectboard is dedicating the Annual Town Report to someone who has dedicated many years and incalculable number of hours to the Town of Westhampton. John Shaw was our choice for this dedication, even though he was honored ten years ago when he retired as Fire Chief. It was during that time he also chaired the committee for the 2001 Engine which is currently in service. Since then, John was elected to the Selectboard and once again he served as Chair for most of his two, three year terms; retiring last year.

Of course that work represents only the most recent segment of John's long list of contributions to the Town. He has volunteered in many capacities beginning in 1980 when he became a member of the Finance Committee. It was not long before he took on the added commitment of Secretary and then Chair. This theme repeated itself

throughout the 1980's, 1990's, and into the 2000's. During that time John served on the Board of Assessors (Secretary & Chair), Planning Board (Chair), and the Zoning Board of Appeals (Chair). Throughout much of that period (1995-2011) John also served as an EMT. He continues some of that tradition today by teaching CPR classes at Cooley Dickinson Hospital.

This short version of the career of service John has demonstrated throughout his time in Westhampton. He continues to work in the background on both technical and mundane projects; so don't be surprised to see him chairing a study committee or mowing the lower library field.

Thank you John

REPORT OF THE SELECTBOARD

The year 2014 began with John Shaw as Chairman, James Huston as Clerk, and Arthur Pichette serving on the Selectboard. This was reorganized after the Annual Town Election with Arthur Pichette as Chairman, James Huston as Clerk and Phillip Dowling. The Selectboard extends gratitude to John for his service and endless dedication to the town. John's extensive experience and influence in town business was an asset to the Town, and the Selectboard has chosen to dedicate this year's Town Report to him.

The Administrative Assistant, Cheryl Provost continued her work for the Selectboard.

Hampshire Council of Government's Hampshire Accounting provided accounting services until September. At the conclusion of the HCOG's contract Margaret Parsons came out of retirement temporarily to assist with the accounting until a new Town Accountant was hired. On December 15 we appointed Joseph L. Boudreau, III as Town Accountant. We are happy to have Joe join us and also wish to thank Margie for her assistance with this important transition.

Following are some notable highlights from the Selectboard agenda in 2014:

- The Personnel Policy & Procedures was completed and adopted, effective November 17.
- The job description for Part-time Police Officer was updated and approved. After interviews with applicants and input from Chief White, we hired an additional Part-time Police Officer George Spencer Hotz.
- Work continued with the InformationTechnology Committee to determine the needs of the town. HCOG's Hampshire Cloud, through a grant, provided an IT audit & summary conducted by Paragus IT. The summary provided insight into the general state of our IT system infrastructure. This information was used to seek input from various other IT

professionals. We will continue our research and development of an improved IT structure and expect to offer a plan for improvements.

- The Selectboard appointed Teresa Donovan and Janice Hines as the first Animal Control Officer. Subsequently, Teresa Donovan took on sole responsibility for this position.
- HCOG's Hampshire Power proceeded to negotiate better electric rates for residents and is awaiting approval from the State Dept. of Public Utilities for an expanded community choice aggregation program. This program will include many cities and towns in Western Mass, as well as others throughout the commonwealth.
- An "Other Post Employee Benefits" Trust Fund was established and Trustees were appointed.

The following projects were completed:

1. Westhampton Elementary School roof and front entrance replacement; an MSBA approved project.
2. Town Hall front porch, stairs and center railing was removed and re-constructed.
3. South Road (Louds) Bridge was completed.
4. North Road Bridge was completed enough to allow re-opening prior to winter. Final paving and re-construction of the North Rd. & Chesterfield Rd. intersection will be completed in 2015.
5. A Library concrete sidewalk was installed making access to the property from the center of the town easier.
6. A financial audit of Fiscal Year 2014 was completed.

All of our boards, departments and committees continue to perform their services. Their hard work, dedication and volunteer spirit are an inspiration. We achieve many things year after year because they all work together as a team for the residents of Westhampton.

Every year we have residents who retire, or choose not to run for re-election. We thank all of you for your years of service to the residents of Westhampton.

Every year we appoint residents to positions they are willing to fill. We thank them also. This town government runs on the energy of all of you that dedicate your time and talents to this wonderful place we call home. The Town still has positions that need to be filled and we would be glad to meet with anyone who wishes to contribute by serving. Small town government cannot function well without volunteers.

The board meets every other Monday evening and is here to serve you. Contact Cheryl at 413-203-3086 with concerns or to make an appointment to get on our agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Pichette
James Huston
Phillip Dowling

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Vital records are kept by the Town Clerk. The State recommends not printing the names of births due to privacy regulations.

Births 13
Westhampton welcomed 3 girls and 4 boys

Marriages 5

5/24/2014	Timothy B. Durrin	to	Melissa J. Lombardi
5/31/2014	Christine A. Blakesley	to	Michelle M. Lareau
6/14/2014	Julie E. Hammons	to	Dana J. Nevins
7/20/2014	Joseph W. Marquis	to	Brenda J. George
9/10/2014	Craig R. Moat	to	Susan F. Noble
09/13/2014	Justin A. Prucnal	to	Alyssa M. Bates
09/07/2014	Adam M. Debarge	to	Melanie M. Bellefleur

Deaths 14

03/13/2014	Ernest R. Sicard	03/26/2014	Dorothy M. Miller
04/09/2014	Daniel B. Krug	04/21/2014	Marjory L. Morin
05/31/2014	Bess Vickery	08/02/2014	Norman A. Stone
08/28/2014	Bernice Joly	08/06/2014	Edward F. Weslowski
08/31/2014	David A. Cole		

DOG LICENSES FOR 2014	**#SOLD**	
Males	8	$ 64.00
Females	12	$ 96.00
Spay	119	$476.00
Neuter	107	$428.00
Total Dog Licenses		**$1,064.00**
Kennels 4 dogs or less	3	$45.00
Kennels 10 dogs or less	1	$25.00
Kennels 10 dogs plus	3	$150.00
Total Kennel Licenses		**$220.00**

Dog Licenses are available in March each year. All dogs six months or older must be licensed by June 30th and a current rabies certificate is required. Per State Law, any person whose dog is not licensed by the June deadline is subject to fines and penalties.

Town Clerk Fees Collected

Burial Permits	3	$60.00
Death Certificates	34	$170.00
Birth Certificates	16	$80.00
Marriage Certificates	21	$105.00
Business Certificate	10	$200.00
Zoning Bylaws/copies	3	$33.00
Animal Control Fees	2	$80.00
Vital Amendments	1	$20.00
Marriage Licenses	7	$140.00
Total		**$888.00**

Population from local census	**1764**
Total Registered Voters	**1291**
Democrats	257
Republicans	139
Unenrolled	887
Designation	8

At the Annual Town Meeting held May 10, 2014 and continued June 16, 2014, it was voted to amend the Town Bylaw 6-3-1 by increasing the amount paid for firefighters and EMS personnel's vehicles damaged in the line of duty from $200.00 to $1,000.00. The Dog Regulations Bylaw 7-9-1 was replaced with a new Dog Regulation 7-9-15. The changes to Bylaw's were submitted and approved by the Massachusetts Attorney General on September9, 214.

The Town Clerk holds office hours Monday night from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Friday mornings from 8:00 AM to noon. If you cannot make it during these hours please call 413-203-3080 and I will be glad to meet you at another time. Services included providing copies or birth, death and marriage certificates; issuing marriage licenses, dog licenses, business licenses and special permit/variance applications; voter registration; and information needed for all elections. I am looking for anyone available to work elections, so if you are interested, please let me know. All meetings and agendas are posted on the bulletin board outside the Town Clerk's office and in the mailbox in front of Town Hall or if you have internet access the Town website www.westhampton-ma.com

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia W. Cotton, Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR
AS OF JUNE 30, 2014

	Real Estate Balances as of June 30, 2014	Personal Property Balances as of June 30, 2014	Motor Vehicle Balances as of June 30, 2014
2014	$85,110.00	$2,914.00	$14,767.00
2013	$37,737.00	$1,378.00	$1,314.00
2012	$12,435.00	$444.00	$925.00
2011	$484.00	$0.0	$1,023.00
Prior Yrs.	$32,910.00	$7,429.00	$18,102.00
TOTAL	$168,676.00	$12,165.00	$36,131.00

Grand Total: $216,972.00

All Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due on the quarterly system, with due dates as follows: 1st quarter - August 1; 2nd quarter - November 1; 3rd quarter - February 1; 4th quarter - May 1. To keep postage to a minimum, only two mailings will continue with two quarters in each mailing.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Blakesley, Tax Collector

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Balance July 1, 2013	1,128,958.55
Receipts	7,412,313.10
Disbursements	7,065,911.86
Balance June 30, 2014	1,475,359.79

Easthampton Library	17,853.75
Easthampton Savings Collector	347,983.83
Easthampton Savings Sweep	139,217.45
Easthampton Savings Deputy Collector	10,129.02
Easthampton Savings Bank Charity	1,672.44
Easthampton Payroll	8,720.84
MMDT General	63,707.46
MMDT Cultural Council	2,768.63
MMDT Septic Grant	79,300.43
Peoples Collector	24,344.13
Peoples MM	48,818.60
Peoples Septic	5,233.08
Unibank	547,695.87
Unibank Online Collections	34,748.44
Unibank Fire Online Collections	350.01
Germain Trust	5,244.52
Clapp Trust	94,289.82
OBEP Trust	8,054.32
MMDT Charity	7,153.00
MMDT Veterans Trust	2,216.33
MMDT Stabilization Fund	25,857.82
Balance June 30, 2014	1,475,359.79
Interest Earned	3,617.86

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Knox, Treasurer

Town of Westhampton
Combined Balance Sheet - All Funds and Account Groups
June 30, 2014

	Governmental Funds			Fiduciary Funds	Account Group	
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trust and Agency	General Long-Term Debt	Totals
Assets						
Cash	722,675.56	209,045.13	380,206.32	163,432.78	0.00	1,475,359.79
Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Taxes Receivable:						
Real property	169,812.76					169,812.76
Personal property	12,164.89					12,164.89
Other Taxes	53.00					53.00
Tax liens	120,879.83					120,879.83
						0.00
	302,910.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	302,910.48
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	81,566.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	81,566.39
	221,344.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	221,344.09
Other Receivables:						
Motor vehicle and other excise	37,330.96					37,330.96
In Lieu of Taxes	1,052.58					1,052.58
Commonwealth of Massachusetts- H		154,823.97				154,823.97
Commonwealth of Massachusetts - School Choice		18,727.00				18,727.00
	38,383.54	154,823.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	193,207.51
Amounts to be Provided for Retiremen of Long-Term Debt	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	594,000.00	594,000.00
Total Assets	982,403.19	363,869.10	380,206.32	163,432.78	594,000.00	2,483,911.39

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Liabilities:						
Accrued Payroll	141,038.87	29,572.28				170,611.15
Deferred revenue -Property	100,411.26					100,411.26
Deferred revenue - Other Taxes	53.00					53.00
Deferred revenue - Tax Liens	120,879.83					120,879.83
Deferred revenue - MVE	37,330.96					37,330.96
Deferred revenue - In Lieu of	1,052.58					1,052.58
Deferred revenue - Highway		154,823.97				154,823.97
Bond Anticipation Notes			480,000.00			480,000.00
Long-term debt					594,000.00	594,000.00
Total Liabilities	400,766.50	184,396.25	480,000.00	0.00	594,000.00	1,659,162.75
Fund Balances:						
Reserved:						
Continuing Approriations	45,960.00					45,960.00
Encumbrances	58,581.42					58,581.42
Expenditures	148,500.00					148,500.00
Unreserved:						
Designated		256,459.00	-99,793.68	163,433.00		320,098.32
Undesignated	328,595.27	-76,986.44				251,608.83
Total Fund Balances	581,636.69	179,472.56	-99,793.68	163,433.00	0.00	824,748.57
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	982,403.19	363,868.81	380,206.32	163,433.00	594,000.00	2,483,911.32

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014

	RECEIPTS	
TAXES		
Property	3,753,403.30	
In Lieu of Taxes	226,098.85	
Motor Vehicle Excise	58.13	
Farm Animal Excise (Final)	10,251.42	
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	18,763.63	4,008,575.33
COMM MASS		
Local Aid/Lottery	125,464.00	
Exemptions	19,925.00	
PILOT	15,835.85	
Chapter 70 Schools	450,895.00	
Vocational Transportation	37,881.00	
Charter School	18,004.00	
State Aid to Libraries	2,138.36	
Veterans Reimbursements	4,889.00	
Medicaid	7,102.18	682,134.39
GRANTS AND GIFTS		
Dog Refund	247.41	
Public Health Grant	944.00	
COA – Federal	3,999.97	
COA – State	4,256.31	
Cultural Council	240.00	
EOPS Grant	15,523.01	
FEMA Storm Aid		
Insurance reimbursement	10,086.74	
Library Gifts	2,716.60	

Library Anonymous	10.00	
Louds Bridge Grant	696,591.85	
MARCS Library	25.00	
Public Health Coalition 2013	470.15	
HCGIT Wellness Grant	800.00	
Safe Grant 2014	5,704.00	
Town Hall Gifts	4,256.31	741,715.04
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Licenses	321.00	
Board of Assessors	10.00	
Plumbing Fees	2,550.00	
Electrical Fees	3,770.00	
Building Permits	19,060.77	
Planning Board	221.00	
Zoning Board of Appeals	515.00	
Library	20.00	
Sale of Town Property	836.00	
Tax Collector Fees	6,205.00	
Other Departmental	1,239.70	
Mark & Clear	960.00	
Town Clerk Fees	1,085.75	
Miscellaneous/refunds	7,805.45	44,599.67
FIRE DEPARTMENT		
Fire Dept. Grants	14,871.50	14,871.50
POLICE DEPARTMENT		
Motor Vehicle Fines	1,305.00	
Gun Permits	1,137.50	2,442.50
BOARD OF HEALTH		
Licenses & Permits	525.00	
Septic Design	100.00	

Perc Tests	1,750.00	
Title V	3,775.00	6,150.00
REVOLVING FUNDS		
Fire Dept. Revolving Fund	3,195.00	
Septic Repayment	155.88	
Cemetery Revolving Fund	7,750.00	11,100.88
SCHOOL FUNDS		
Choice reimbursement	76,411.00	
Foundation Reserve	48,162.00	
GAPS/REAPS grant	19,210.00	
Kindergarten Grant	9,000.00	
Preschool	55,573.30	
Building Use	1,350.00	
School Lunch	23,676.08	233,382.38
HIGHWAY		
Chapter 90	172,430.57	
Transfer Station Fees	51,104.50	223,535.07
TRUST		
Clapp Trust	94,789.82	
St Germain Memorial Trust	5,342.92	
OPEB Trust	3,054.25	103,186.99
INTEREST		
On General Fund	3,275.37	
On Charity Funds	7.60	
On Cemetery Funds	7.21	
On Veterans Trust	3.65	
On Stabilization	49.13	3,342.96
AGENCY		
Dog Licenses	1,149.25	
Deputy Collector Fees	3,803.75	
Meals Tax	32.21	

Gun Permits	4,737.50	
Police Outside Detail	10,300.00	
Payroll Deductions	575,542.68	595,565.39
Temp Borrowing-School Roof	480,000.00	480,000.00
Highway Bond Refunding	350,000.00	350,000.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**7,500,602.10**

NON-APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES

TAX REFUNDS		
Property Tax	10,064.85	
Motor Vehicle Excise	1,786.35	11,851.20

AGENCY		
Dog Licenses	35.75	
Deputy Collector Fees	3,605.75	
Meals Tax	32.45	
Gun Permits	2,025.00	
Police Detail	10,940.00	
Payroll Deductions	571,795.85	588,434.80

SCHOOL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS	
Foundation Reserve	44,415.75
REAPS grant	17,788.72
Kindergarten Enhancement	9,015.65
Preschool	74,026.22
School Choice	73,562.01
School Lunch	23,138.75

School Building Use	12,475.00	
School Gifts	1,860.86	256,282.96
SPECIAL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS		
Cemetery Revolving	5,449.46	
Clapp Fund	500.00	
Cultural Council	4,576.58	
Council On Aging	2,168.21	
Council on Aging Federal	3,998.23	
Council on Aging State	1,623.99	
Fire Dept. Revolving	1,024.77	
HCGIT Wellness Grant	10,086.74	
Insurance Reimbursement	770,061.43	
Louds Bridge Grant	233,383.27	
Chapter 90 Highway Funds	4,798.56	
Library Gifts	10.00	
Library Anonymous	7,975.00	
Library Building Gift	1,995.64	
State Aid to Library	1,572.96	
Safe Grant 2012	2,293.00	
Safe Grant 2013	120.00	
Safe Grant 2014	3,569.00	
Highway Bond Refunding	350,000.00	1,405,206.84
CAPITAL PROJECTS		
School Roof	99,793.68	99,793.68
TOTAL Non-Appropriation	**2,361,569.48**	**2,361,569.48**

APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES	Budgeted	Spent
General Government		
Moderator	425.00	0.00
Selectboard Salary	4,025.00	4,025.00
Selectboard Expense	4,737.80	4,294.60
Selectboard Encumbrance	236.20	0.00
Administrative Assistant	30,000.00	26,346.17
Town Accountant	11,972.00	9,907.97
Town Accountant Expense	3,865.00	2,429.04
Auditor Salary	425.00	0.00
Independent Audit ($13,500 CF)	20,500.00	13,000.00
Treasurer Salary	13,999.00	13,990.10
Treasurer Expense	5,400.00	4,987.62
Assessor Salary	7,750.00	7,750.00
Assessor Expense	8,925.00	7,489.24
Assessor Assistant	13,500.00	13,500.00
Tax Collector Salary	13,999.00	13,999.00
Tax Collector Expense	12,483.00	11,292.90
Tax Taking Expense	3,500.00	40.00
Town Clerk Salary	12,000.00	12,000.00
Town Clerk Expense	4,000.00	3,303.69
Clerk Board of Registrars	100.00	0.00
Counsel Fees	30,938.19	30,938.19
Conservation Commission	200.00	174.00
Planning Board	200.00	184.66
Zoning Board of Appeals	600.00	325.00
Town Offices	29,384.11	29,152.91
Town Hall Upgrade	2,030.00	1,389.94
Annex Barrier Removal	67,379.04	67,379.04
Town Hall Porch	10,000.000	10,000.00
		287,899.07

Protection of Persons & Property		
Police Chief	26,252.00	26,252.00
Police Department	46,666.00	45,503.67
Fire Chief	10,506.00	10,506.00
Fire Department	22,900.00	22,891.30
Fire Air Foam System	35,000.00	0.00
Public Safety Complex	14,444.65	14,444.65
Emergency Mangmt Director	391.00	391.00
Emergency Medical Services	12,038.00	7,847.97
Inspection Salary	14,431.00	14,234.07
Inspection Expense	1,250.00	556.55
Tree Warden	575.00	575.00
Tree Warden Expense	2,000.00	1,788.25
		144,990.46
Education		
School Committee	1,305.00	1,305.00
Elementary School	1,291,877.24	1,291,089.88
Elementary School Enc	68,984.99	8,648.55
Elementary School Parking Lot	50,000.00	48,162.55
Elementary School Roof	22,500.00	22,500.00
Hampshire Regional	1,152,486.00	1,152,486.00
Hampshire Regional Debt	81,932.00	81,932.00
School Choice	21,299.00	21,489.00
Charter School	37,308.00	52,838.00
Vocational	287,684.59	264,511.00
Vocational Transportation	41,690.00	37,413.24
		2,982,375.22
Public Works		
Highway Administration		
Highway Salaries	4,100.00	3,929.41

Highway Materials	199,225.00	196,847.25
Snow Removal	85,500.00	85,409.22
Road Machinery	115,225.87	115,225.87
Sander	41,844.00	38,930.35
Road machinery Fuel	8,500.00	8,350.00
Road Machinery Buildings	41,820.00	36,627.47
Transfer Station	28,441.00	27,496.18
Cemetery	54,839.41	39,323.83
		557,887.55

Human Services

Board of Health Salary	1,540.00	550.00
Health Agent	6,540.00	6,540.00
Board of Health Expenses	7,996.58	7,996.58
Hilltown Resource Mgmt. Coop	4,269.00	4,268.10
Animal Inspector	759.00	759.00
Council on Aging	3,200.00	1,540.36
COA Coordinator	1,090.00	1,084.48
Veterans Agent	1,576.02	1,576.02
Veterans Expenses	10,253.23	10,253.23
		34,567.77

Culture & Recreation

Library	83,751.02	83,524.76
Library Encumbrance	24.98	0.00
Historical Commission	1,200.00	631.64
Memorial Day	200.00	0.00
Cultural Council	75.00	0.00
		84,156.40

Debt

Highway Bldg./ Firetruck	149,000.00	149,000.00
Interest	3,753.00	3,752.15
		152,752.15

Intergovernmental		
Hampshire Council of Governments	1,521.00	1,520.80
State Assessments: Air Pollution	500.00	503.00
RMV Surcharge	820.00	640.00
Regional Transit	819.00	819.00
STRAP	12,000.00	12,000.00
Pioneer Valley Planning Comm.	242.00	241.05
		15,723.85
Unclassified		
Hampshire County Retirement	136,298.00	136,298.00
Unemployment	11,000.00	1,723.98
Group Health Insurance	331,354.81	330,623.72
Medicare	23,562.42	22,047.46
Medicare Encumbrance	437.58	136,298.00
Insurance & Bonds	136,298.00	
		565,194.30
Total Appropriation	**5,012,119.73**	**4,825,546.77**
Grand Total Expenditures		**7,187,116.25**

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Boudreau, Town Accountant

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of January 1, 2014 members of the Finance Committee and their respective terms were:

Maryanne Duggan	2014
Joseph Pipczyniski (appointed)	2014
vacant	2014
Mary Cleary	2015
Ellice Gonzalez Brandow	2015
Margaret Parsons	2015
Edward Zawacki	2015
Jacqueline Brodeur	2016
Aniko Giordano	2016
Celeste Whiting	2016

At the June 2014 election Thomas Cleary, Jr. was elected to serve until 2017. Maryanne Duggan and Joseph Pipczyniski were each re-elected for three years.

During this past year, individual Finance Committee members attended meetings and workshops to learn how other communities similar to Westhampton prepare their budgets, handle tight fiscal constraints and plan for continuing capital improvements. This information was reported back to the Committee and we are now working on the implementation of those ideas that will support the Town's fiscal health now and into the future.

The Finance Committee thanks the Town Departments and Committees for this year's budget requests which were both legitimate and thoughtful. However, those requests were $500,000 over the levy limit or about ten percent over the previous year's budget. Therefore, after a thorough review and considerate deliberation, the Finance Committee made difficult decisions cutting requests where feasible while balancing all the Town's needs.

Specific areas of adjustment to the FY2015 budget were: the IT project funded at $1000 for a review and assessment of the Town's IT needs; the first stage of the Fire Department's upgrade of its SCBA's funded at $35,000; the Foothills Health District funded at $14,544. Further, a capital expense of $248,000 for a Highway truck was proposed by the Finance Committee as a debt inclusion. All recommendations were supported by the voters.

The remainder of the budget was approved with little or no change except for the Westhampton Elementary School appropriation which the Finance Committee had recommended at $1,445,006. A motion was made and passed to increase the budget line by $38,474 contingent on a Proposition 21/2 override. That was so voted on June 28, 2014 with the final Elementary School budget totaling $1,483,480.

The FY2015 budget presented at Town Meeting included the Committee's recommendation that $126,000 in Free Cash be used to balance the budget, leaving $75,000 as a base for the 2014 Free Cash Certification. In October 2014, Free Cash was certified at $215,672 as of July 1, 2014 which included the base amount already voted in the budget plus receipts from FY14 in excess of estimates as well as unspent amounts in budget line items from FY14.

In FY14 Finance Committee voted the following transfers from the Reserve Fund:

$ 500	Road Machinery
$2000	Counsel Fees
$6000	Counsel Fees

Additionally, the Committee recommended the following year end transfers: from Group Health $1196.30 to Town Offices; $319.65 to the Safety Complex Building; $875.99 to Board of Health Expenses; .02 to Veteran's Agent, $1253.23 to Veteran's Expenses and from Unemployment $61.81 to Town Offices; $4,938.18 to Counsel Fees. The Committee also voted $30,225.87 to cover the Snow Removal Deficit.

For FY15 Finance Committee voted the following transfers from the Reserve Fund:

$2112	Veterans Expense
$ 2	Conservation Commission

Additionally, $185 was voted to be transferred from the Board of Health Salary to the Foothills Health District.

At a special Town Meeting, January 13, 2014, the Finance Committee recommended that $4,000 be transferred from available funds to Counsel Fees and that $1,117,000 be appropriated for the repair of the Westhampton Elementary School roof and entry way contingent upon the MSBA reimbursement program and successful debt exclusion. Both were so voted.

The Finance Committee also recommended that at a Special Town Meeting in 2015, $15,000 be transferred from available funds to Counsel Fees and $11,172 be transferred from available funds to Veterans Expense.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellice Gonzalez, Chair

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

In 2014, the Board of Assessors recorded 64 property transfers. Also, the Board approved a total of 23 personal exemptions, 2 real estate abatements, 1 account deemed uncollectable and 76 motor vehicle excise abatements.

Fiscal year 2015 was an interim certification year for the Town of Westhampton. The State of Massachusetts, Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services is involved in this process, and they certified the Town's values in November 2014.

Westhampton's assessed values for Fiscal Year 2015 are

Real Estate - $210,969,436
Personal Property - $5,094,577
Exempt - $27,823,800

The tax rate was certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue in December 2014 for fiscal year 2015 at $18.25per $1000 of value.

Assessor business can be transacted Monday & Wednesday mornings from 9-12 and the Board of Assessors meets Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex.

We can be reached at 413-203-3082 or westhamptonassessors @comcast.net

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Morrey, Chair
Dolores Thornhill
Sarah Challet

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The winter of 2013-2014 was again a typical cold and snowy winter. There were no huge snowstorms, therefore no assistance was offered through MEMA. However, the extreme cold did cause a lot of drainage culverts to freeze, making it necessary to get our antique steamer out of storage to thaw them. Always amazes me how something that old and primitive still does the job so well. A total of $115,226 was spent on snow removal.

In the spring, all paved roads and parking lots were swept and, during the summer, all the catch basins were checked and cleaned as needed.

Beavers

Beavers again continued to cause problems, but this year only at the Route 66 site. A total of five beavers were trapped.

Chapter 90 Projects

Various sections of the following roads were chip sealed, totaling 3.2 miles: Stage Road, Reservoir Road, Turkey Hill Road, Southampton Road, Laurel Hill Road, Lyman Road, Easthampton Road.

In the spring, Governor Patrick approved a one time, $40 million state-wide program called Winter Rapid Recovery Road Program. Of the $40 million, $30 million was distributed as direct aid to cities and towns apportioned via the Chapter 90 formula. The other 10 million went to state roads. Westhampton's share of this "pothole" money was $28,337. This money, along with $36,574 in Chapter 90 money was used to shim and overlay (pave) North Road from Stage Road to Perry Hill Road.

Project Updates:

South Road Loud's Bridge Project

In the spring, ET&L returned to finish the remaining landscape, paving and line painting work. This finally completed the entire

South Road project. The project was first proposed and plans were started in 1994.

North Road Bridge over Roberts Meadow Brook

The North Road Bridge by Brown's was closed to traffic on August 22, 2014 and demolition began. The new bridge was opened on December 18, 2014. The remaining work will be completed in the spring. We were able to save the old bridge railings from this bridge and re-use them on the "skinny" bridge on Kings Highway. The Kings Highway Bridge has been in need of new railings for a number of years, so this worked out really well.

Lyman Road

Lyman Road was hard surfaced for the first half mile from Route 66. Minor widening and base improvements were made using the recycled asphalt pavement (RAP) from the previous year's Route 66 mill and pave project. Having and using this free RAP material saved close to $40,000 on this project. After the base material was in place, a double chip seal was put down as a finished travel surface. This should serve this section well for a number of years.

New Truck:

Annual Town Meeting 2014 voted to replace our 1997 FWD truck with wing plow and all seasons dump body. In September, the Selectboard signed a contract with Patriot Freightliner, Western Star for a new Western Star model 4800, outfitted the same as the 1997 we are replacing. The cab and chassis is expected to arrive at the dealer in mid-April 2015, then it will go to outfitter to have the body, wing, plow, hydraulics, and plow frame installed.

MIIA Grant:

I applied for and received a Loss Control Grant through our insurance company, Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association in the amount of $5,000. This allowed us to purchase an enclosed trailer stocked with traffic cones, barrels, barricades, and other equipment needed to secure an emergency scene. This so-called "Disaster

Recovery Trailer" will be loaded and ready to go at all times and can be used by the Police and Fire Departments as well. All three departments have vehicles capable of towing this trailer.

Again I thank Bill Jablonski. Jerry Ostrowski, and Scott Tirrell for all they do. Also, thanks to Don Fox for the great job he does tending the transfer station.

Respectfully submitted,

David Blakesley,
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Westhampton Fire Department had another busy year in 2014 providing emergency services to the community. The Department responded to one-hundred and seventy-three calls for service this year. These calls for service were for fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, motor vehicle accidents, utility wires down, residential fire alarm activations, inspections and many more.

The Department's fleet of apparatus consists of a 2004 Engine, a 1986 Engine, a 1990 garbage truck cab and chassis with a milk truck body converted into a Water Tanker, a 2002 Brush Truck, a 2009 Rescue Truck, and a 2009 Mobile Air trailer with a light tower and generator. All vehicles are checked by Department personnel on a weekly basis to ensure a state of operational readiness and reliability. In addition, the Town's Highway Department has been a tremendous asset to the Fire Department, completing all routine maintenance, fluid changes, and upkeep of the vehicles. The vehicle maintenance program, as established, helps to prolong the expected life-span of the vehicles and improve the safety during emergency responses. Again this year, we had both Engines professionally pump-tested to ensure adequate pump performance as determined by the manufactures. These testing procedures are also reflected in the Department's

Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating and meet the requirements set by National Standards pertaining to Fire Apparatus.

The Department also had all of the fire hose pressure tested to ensure adequate operational effectiveness. National Standards recommend that this is done once a year, and in addition, it is reflected in the ISO ratings that this testing procedure be done to minimize the insurance rates in Town. More important, to ensure the safety of all members utilizing fire hose during operational procedures, it is our responsibility that they are provided with equipment that is safe and functioning to the highest standards. The testing revealed that the Department did have fire hose in service that did not pass the required pressure rating. These were removed from service and replaced with some of the spare hose that was also tested and passed the requirements. These testing requirements demonstrated that this was a project that was needed and should be continued each year to help ensure that the integrity and operational capacity of the equipment is maintained. We also had all of our ground ladders tested to the National Standards, ensuring they could meet the performance requirements during emergency operations. All of these projects are critical to properly maintaining all of the equipment and ensuring the highest degree of safety for our personnel utilizing these resources.

One of the greatest challenges faced by volunteer departments across the country is the recruitment and retention of Department members. Greater demands on training, increasing call volumes and the balance of a full time job and family all require a delicate balance that can minimize the number of people interested in becoming a member. The Town of Westhampton has been very fortunate over the years, given the difficulties seen by other departments, to maintain this type of department and the high level of performance and services provided by these individuals. The Department currently has thirty-five volunteer members and is always seeking new members to help serve the community. These volunteers are vital to keeping the overall cost for services down while at the same time performing a critical service needed in the community.

Members of the Department are continuing to work with the Elementary School and their staff to deliver public education and fire

safety lessons to the Students. This education is done in the form of classroom presentations and demonstrations as well as public education programs at Town events such as the Fall Festival. Our Department continues to be a member of the Hampshire County Fire Defense Association providing us access to a regional public education trailer to assist in the delivery of the fire safety lessons. This continues to be an extremely valuable program and we look forward to our continued collaboration with the school Administration for this purpose.

The Department continues to rely heavily on its website to help with the communications throughout the community. We have transitioned all of our burning permits and inspections to this online forum to make it more convenient for anyone to request or schedule these and get immediate feedback. For a Department that is an all-volunteer, we have already seen a dramatic improvement in communication both externally and internally with our members. We hope to continually make improvements such as this in the future to better service all the residents as efficiently as possible.

In addition, this year we worked with the Town Treasurer and Unibank to provide online payments and scheduling for people needing a home smoke and carbon monoxide detector inspection. This enables all funds to be directly sent on a secure wireless network to the Towns bank account and then generates an email notifying the Department about the need for an inspection. Our hope is to transition all inspectional fees and services to this online system in July 2015.

To access the Department website, please visit www.westhamptonfire.org and you can also visit us on our Facebook page under the Westhampton Fire Department page.

The Department continued providing services for installation of child safety restraint systems. Motor vehicle crashes continue to be a leading cause of injury and death for children under the age of 12. Based on information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), although motor vehicle deaths among children age 12 and under has decreased by 43% in the past decade, still more than

9,000 children age 12 and under have died in crashes in the past decade. The Department has one technician trained to properly install these seats to help continually reduce the number of children becoming injured. Knowing how to use car seats, booster seats, and seat belts along with wearing these no matter how short the trip, will lead to a safer environment for our children. To sign up for this service, simply click on our website and choose a date.

In October, our 2004 Engine got retrofitted with a Compressed Air Foam System that was approved by Town Meeting in May 2013. The purpose of this project was to improve our operational capabilities with the limited water supply here in Town by using this new technology to enhance the water we carry on our current fleet of vehicles. All members completed the training needed for this technology and has already seen the benefits of this with a structure fire at 135 Southampton Road in which we only needed one-hundred and forty seven gallons of water to suppress the fire compared to previous fires needing over one-three thousand gallons of water. The Department would like to, again, thank the Town for their support for this much needed project.

The Department was successful this year in obtaining an Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of $121,421 for the purchase of fifteen new air packs, spare bottles, face pieces, voice amplifiers, and an accountability system. This new equipment replaces air packs that were over fifteen years old and could no longer be serviced or repaired. At last year's Town Meeting, voters approved $35,000 to begin to replace these units pending the award of this grant. We are proud that we will not need these funds or any future funds for this project and we have reliable, safe equipment for our personnel and community that will last for the next fifteen years with the help from this grant award.

Another grant the Department was awarded this past year was from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency in the amount of $5,500 to replace all of our pagers for our volunteers. These pagers are issued to each individual as a primary means of notification and alerting when there is an emergency. The current ones were over eight years old and were unreliable, outdated, and would be costly to

repair. These funds enabled our Department to replace this outdated technology ensuring we have a reliable system in place for emergencies.

In July, the Town switched to a new mass notification system to alert all Town residents for any emergent needs. This system is called CodeRED and provides the Town the ability to call all landlines, or any other cell phone numbers, text message, or email individuals on the alert. The intent of this type of system is to improve communication prior to a large scale disaster, or weather related event to provide guidance and direction to the community on things such as expectations of power being restored, opening of warming shelters, and items that individuals are expected to have on their own. We have done two test calls with this system with positive feedback from the system and the community as a whole. Anyone can sign up for this system by going to the Department website at www.westhamptonfire.org and click on the CodeRED icon on our homepage.

On December 17, 2014, the Westhampton Fire Department had three new recruits graduate from the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program. This program is 320 hours in duration and cover all of the academic and practical requirements as outlined in the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1001 on Firefighter requirements. The three individuals were Alex Antosz, Matt Campbell, and Katie Sobon. All three excelled in this program and we are extremely proud of each of them and are fortunate to have them as members of the Department.

Other new members brought on this year were Samuel Labonte, Kayla Holt, and Barrett Zimmerman. We welcome these new members as they transition to our Department and begin their training for both fire and emergency medical services calls.

There are a number of capital projects that the Fire Department is going to need input and support on from the community in the immediate future. The largest of these is a need for a new Public Safety Complex to meet the growing demands of the community. The current facility is reaching sixty years old and no longer is able to

accommodate the demands placed on the public safety services (Police, Fire, EMS, and Emergency Management). In addition, one of the Engines is twenty-eight years old and has reached its life expectancy. However, no new Engine available will fit in the current facility given the current size and parameters. The Tanker vehicle is also old and being utilized for operations that it was not designed.

All of these items have been forwarded to the Town Capital Improvements Committee with emphasis placed on a new building. We will continue to explore all available funding options to minimize the financial impact on the community, but the conversation needs to continue in order to plan and prepare for vehicles and equipment for the next ten to twenty-five years and a facility that will continue to meet the service demands for the next fifty plus years. We did meet with the Selectboard and spoke with them about applying for a federal grant to replace the Tanker vehicle. That grant was submitted in December and we should hear about this in July 2015.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of the personnel at the Department for their continued support and dedication to the Town and the Department. It continues to be an absolute pleasure and honor to work for all of them and be part of an organization that cares so much about their community. The members of the Westhampton Fire Department continue to do much more than respond to emergencies. Throughout the years, they continue to clean residents chimneys each fall, hang the flags on the utility poles in the center of town when needed, get involved in community sponsored events such as the Halloween parade, fill residents swimming pools and the water tanks at the Town Cemetery, install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, and put up house numbers for residences to help emergency responders find the proper location and decrease response times. The Westhampton Fire Department is one of the few healthy and vigorous volunteer departments left in the region, and all of the members are very dedicated and proud to serve the residents and community. Thank you and have a safe and healthy year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher W. Norris, Fire Chief

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Providing a secure community is of the utmost importance to the Westhampton Police Department. We take pride in the opportunity to serve and protect the town. Keeping within the limitations of the yearly budget, your officers have been able to build community partnerships through regular patrols, attending town events, and working with mutual aid partners. It is our belief that a safer living environment is a result of a strong collaboration between the police department and the residents.

The following is a synopsis of reported trends from 2010-2014:

Emergency/paged calls:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	282	361	271	253	308
To include:					
- Arrests/summons	7	9	6	6	3
- Disturbances	6	10	6	11	16
- Breaking Entry	2	6	4	4	5
- Larcenies	7	6	6	10	11
- Domestic Calls	4	5	7	4	4
-Assault	3	5	2	2	5
- alarms/911 hang up/ misdials	49	94	85	41	91
-Suspicious Persons/ Vehicles	12	16	13	22	7
- Medical/Fire Assists	14	18	23	21	47
-Accidents	14	26	29	24	34
-Officer Assistance	64	106	83	90	82
-Vandalism	11	6	12	9	12
-Non-emergency calls	447	600	578	648	730

If there are any thoughts or questions, please contact the department at 527-6154. The messages are checked at least twice per day and an officer will return your call. The above number should be used for **non-emergencies**. In case of emergency, call 911. In the event the

town police officers are not available, the Massachusetts State Police will be dispatched from Northampton.

Firearms applications are accepted on the second Wednesday of each month. Pictures are no longer required to apply. The application may be downloaded off our website at WesthamptonPolice.com. This website also offers a variety of links and forms that may be useful.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

D. White #671
Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER/INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of actions by the Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector

07/13/14-Pick up of live bat for rabies testing ; bat found in house. Rabies test was negative.
07/21/14-Dog placed in quarantine, 24 Reservoir Road; bite of unknown origin.
07/23/14-Call for pick-up of dead skunk for rabies testing, upon arrival I was told that the husband had shot the skunk in the head; cannot test that and disposed of skunk.
08/06/14-Placed cat in quarantine after report it bit owner.
08/09/14-Dogs at large at 230 Northwest Road; Jan responded.
09/13/14-Dog at large at 208 Reservoir Road; Jan responded.
10/19/14-Stray cat found Pomeroy Mountain Road; will keep if owner not found.

10/28/14-Dog bite/fight at Buttonwood Daycare Northwest Road; one dog from Easthampton ,one from Florence. Reported to Northampton Board of Health; they will do quarantine on biting dog.
10/31/14-Report of two dogs found on Route 66; driver picked them up and brought them to kennel.
11/01/14-Owner located for labs; dogs released to her after fine paid to Town Clerk for unlicensed dog.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Donovan,
Animal Control Officer & Inspector

REPORT OF THE VETERANS' AGENT

The year 2014 veterans are still feeling the crunch of the economy and have many questions concerning health care, education, jobs and guidance; who do I turn to or where do I go? Veterans and Veterans' family members can get quick answers and guidance from a website, MassVetsAdvisor.org. By logging onto this web site you will find avenues to State and Federal areas of need. If you are not computer savvy, then call your Veterans' Service Officer and we become the front-line in your effort to get info and answers.
Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 115, 108 provides many avenues for benefits for the veterans and their families.

Please contact the Veterans' Office at 413-427-3054 to set up an appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Henning, Veteran's Agent

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

There were 116 building permits issued in 2014 with $15,884 collected in fees for projects valued at $2,387,917

Permit Classification	Project Value	No.
Additions	114,200	5
Annual Inspections (not bp)	0	4
Barns/Sheds/Garages/Carport	157,010	4
Cell Tower Work	42,000	4
Chimney	1600	1
Decks/Porches/Steps	56,100	6
Demo Misc	19,500	4
Earth Removal (not bp)	0	1
Insulation/Weatherization	22,134	9
Pellet/Wood Stoves	39,640	20
Pools	31,900	2
Renovations	691,459	21
Repair Fire Damage	38,900	1
Roofs (includes school no fee)	450,812	17
Solar	115,566	5
Sheet Metal	26,800	2
Siding	17,652	1
Single Family Residences	409,000	2
Tent	2,100	1
Windows/Doors (inc church)	151,544	11

Note: Building permits and inspections are for your protection and safety to help uphold minimum building standards, please make sure your contractor is licensed, has a permit, and calls for inspections.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Miller, Building Inspector

REPORT OF THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR

During the year 2014 the Plumbing Inspector's office received forty two permit applications. Seventeen were for plumbing work twenty-five were for gas inspections. Five of the permits were for new homes and twelve were for remodeling.

A total of $1735.00 was collected for permits and fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Pichette, Plumbing Inspector

REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In 2014 your Zoning Board of Appeals was made up by Leo Aloisi, Chair; Richard W. Tracy, Clerk; Wayne Parks, John Kelsy, and Stephen St. Marie as regular members; and this year we were fortunate to have Shirley Morrigan join the board as an associate member. This is very exciting to have a little breathing room with an associate member, and there is still room for two more associates, if anyone is interested.

The Zoning Board meets on the second Tuesday of every month, in the Annex Building, at 7:00 pm. We review and approve proposals for new buildings, answer questions as necessary, and provide public hearings on any issues that come before the board. Fortunately, there were no public hearings required in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy, Clerk

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The economy and real estate market continue to be slow. The Planning Board reviewed and approved just a few building lots and building permit applications this past year. The Planning Board spent most of the year reviewing a special permit application for a saw mill and wood chipping operation off Northwest Road. There have been many public hearings on the matter and the process is still ongoing.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark T. Schwallie, Chair

REPORT OF THE S.A.L.T. TRIAD

TRIAD - In 1988, three national groups: AARP, the International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police, and the National Sheriff's Association agreed crime prevention needs of older citizens could be best met by cooperative efforts. By signing an agreement, a TRIAD was formed. The National Association of Triads today requires the need for participation and leadership of three entities: law enforcement, adult volunteers, and community service groups. In 1992, the Hampshire County TRIAD was begun by Sheriff R. Garvey.

S.A.L.T. - Seniors And Law enforcement Together
Dave Fenton of our County Sheriff's office, Christine Geffin of the Northwestern District Attorney's office, and Police Chief, Dave White work with our volunteer council. We strive to educate, empower, improve communication, and provide information to older adults by focusing on safety and wellness. The first Westhampton SALT group was formed in 1994.

FREE PUBLICATIONS by S.A.L.T.

"Westhampton: Preparing for Emergencies & Disasters" - A Manual: survival kits, power outage, fire safety, storms, shelter
"Special Wishes" - 10 section guide organizes personal affairs
This manual is found on our Town Police web site.
"Where to Get Help" - a directory of local, State, Federal services
"File of Life" - Your critical medical info card to keep visible at home in your car to assist all responding emergency personnel.
2011 Surveyed results 60+ - surveyed needs of residents

2014 PROJECTS & FUTURE EVENTS

National Prescription Take-Back Days: assist our Police in the yearly events to collect unused drugs to prevent abuse/ pollution
Survey for Adults 55-60: future mailing to assess resident needs
Belltower Monthly Articles: Fraud alerts, safety reminders, health, financial, and caregiving issues
"Special Wishes" Manual: Being completely updated/ revised
"Where To Get Help" Directory: Revised and updated
Town Disaster/Emergency Planning: working with Town officials and supporting a CodeRED Reverse Communication system
"A Buddy System": working with Council on Aging to establish a Safety Net communication system during a Town or personal crisis
Fund Raising Events: Triad is funded solely by donations. We thank you for past support: a successful Potato Bash to be held again!

Promoting Safety/ Well Being/ Communication

We welcome your participation in reaching our Community goals. Monthly meetings: 1st. Thursday at 10am, Westhampton Woods (F) Members: Connie Dragon, Don Graham, Chuck Horn, David Majercik, Ginny Curtis

whsaltcouncil@comcast.net 529-9873

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Curtis, Chair

REPORT OF THE FOOTHILLS HEALTH DISTRICT AGENT

During 2014 the department witnessed 6 perc. tests and 16 Title 5 inspections. Septic system permits were issued for eight new systems or system components. A total of $8250.00 was collected in fees; an increase of $1450.00 from last year. This is partly due to joining the Foothills Health District on July 1. Some fees have increased while some have decreased. The fees are structured so the residents using the FHD services are paying for it. While it is not entirely funded by fees, a large part of it is, resulting in less cost to the taxpayer. Fees collected are turned over to each town's Treasurer. The money is then deposited into the General Fund.

The following is a general breakdown of the many responsibilities handled on a regular basis by your Board of Health and the Health Agent:

- Witnessing percolation tests and Title 5 inspections for all new and replacement septic systems
- Permit review and on-site inspections for all septic repairs and installations
- Housing code inspections and enforcement
- Infectious disease investigation and reporting
- Tobacco regulation enforcement
- On-site inspections for all beaver conflict permits
- Handling the numerous public health-related questions and complaints
- Restaurant inspections

I may be reached at 268-8404. In-person help must be scheduled in advance. Written messages or mail should be directed to me at PO Box 447 Haydenville, MA 01039, or via email at VBird113@gmail.com . I look forward to another productive year.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Bird, Health Agent

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

For Year 2014-15

The Westhampton Council on Aging has completed another busy year. This year the board accepted the resignation of Liz Anderson and want to thank her for her many years of service as the chair.
Current board members are:
Louise Jasionkowski & Lillian Baxter..... Term ending June 2015
Jean Webster & Wendy Blow.....Term ending June 2016
Bill Magrone, & Shirley Raymond.....Term ending June 2017

The goal of the Westhampton Council on Aging is to enhance the quality of life for all Westhampton residents who are age 60 and over and to provide them a variety of services and activities. This year those services included: a quarterly newsletter; the H-E-N Program (Helping Elders in Need); the FRTA Transportation Program which provides transportation for seniors; monthly luncheons with informational and entertaining programs following; blood pressure checks; notary public services; help navigating through Medicare and other insurance programs; bus trips to area points of interest; computer support classes; monthly breakfasts; a Health & Wellness Fair; birthday and get well greetings; a monthly movie; as well as individual support and check-ins when needed.
The board continues to work on the project which will help us learn more about our senior population. Working with the Northern Hilltown COA Consortium we wrote and received funding from two different grant sources that will help us with this project. Both projects have to do with finding out about the needs of our elders and supporting those needs. We will be working with the Hilltown Health Centers and hope to have these plans more defined before the start of the new fiscal year. This grant funding also includes money to cover the cost of collaboration on our town newsletters. This will mean that our COA Newsletter will have a different look, but the good news is that it will be published monthly, starting with the March issue.

In addition to the grant with the Hilltown Health Center, we have secured a grant with the COAs in Chesterfield, Worthington and Goshen to fund some chair yoga classes. These will be starting at Westhampton Woods at the end of March.

We have expanded our work with emergency providers and this year we will again sponsor a health fair, which, in addition to our EMTs, will include collaboration with both our Fire and Police Department as well as other area service providers. We are pleased that our Health and Wellness Fair has become a yearly event which will allow Westhampton seniors to be more prepared for their health care needs. We hope that each year we will have more Files of Life, hanging on the refrigerators of our Westhampton seniors!

The COA is grateful to the town for the funds that are voted to support the group. In addition, the COA receives grant funding from the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs but our funding from a federal grant administered through the Highland Valley Elder Services has been cut during the last couple of years and we fear that this year we will not be eligible for any funds just for our town.

The Friends of the Westhampton COA has continued to be an active organization. This group gives those who would like to be a part of the Westhampton COA, but who live out of town, an opportunity to be a part of the organization. Likewise, those townspeople who would like to support the organization can become members of the Friends Group, regardless of age. The Friends have organized under the chairmanship of Connie Dragon, and the support of the other members of the Friends' board - Jean Alward, Liz Anderson, Sue Beaumier, Betty Gould, and Charlotte Wood who is the Treasurer. In addition to their work on membership, the Friends have planned successful trips – one which was a riverboat ride on the Connecticut, as well as a trip to the West Point Dress Parade to watch the U.S. Military Academy Cadet Review and to enjoy a guided tour. Each year this group raises funds with their annual Pie Sale and Raffle at the Fall Festival. They use these funds to recognize the 90th birthdays of the Westhampton seniors, make memorial donations, support the needs of the COA and subsidize senior trips.

The COA has a lending program in which we have many items available for borrowing. Please check with us if you need bath seats, canes, walkers, bed pads, etc.

The over 400 seniors living in Westhampton are fortunate to live in a community where many are willing to donate a great deal of time to the organization. Thanks to all those volunteers who give of their time and expertise: the board members; the Salt Triad Program; the volunteers who coordinate both the HEN Program and the FRTA transportation program; the many volunteer drivers; the luncheon planning committee; those who work on the Friends of the COA organization; those who send out the many cards; those who provide cupcakes for birthdays at each luncheon; those who are faithful photographers; and the many who help with our fundraising pie sale. In addition to all of these, there are many members who lend a helping hand in ways too numerous to count - thanks to all of you!

In addition to our local programs, members of the COA Board take part in the Hilltown Councils on Aging Consortium, the Highland Valley Elder Services Board of Directors, and many local initiatives such as the Transportation Committee under the leadership of the Hilltown CDC. Board members also attend training sessions offered by the Office of Elder Affairs.

We encourage those seniors living in Westhampton to attend the monthly luncheons, held on the first Thursday of each month (except August!) and the breakfasts held at Westhampton Woods at 8:00 a.m. on the third Friday of each month. Home cooked food, socialization, and a variety of interesting programs are available. This year the programs ran the gamut from our Intergenerational Program with the Fourth Graders, to informational programs about services available, music, animals and many more!

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Miller, Director

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library continues to be a vibrant part of our community. We offer many regularly scheduled programs and activities for patrons, as well as a calendar of special events and offerings for community members of all ages. Lyn Keating has been the library director for 24 years, overseeing the collection, the building, staff, and volunteers. Hilary Nolan, the staff librarian, creates and manages programs for children and covers the circulation desk and other responsibilities with Lyn. New in 2014, thanks to support from The Friends of the Westhampton Public Library, was the publicity director position, with Helene Pajak filling the role.

There are 969 residents in town that hold library cards. Our library provided 4,414 items via interlibrary loan to other libraries, while loans from other libraries decreased to 2,870. The overall circulation for the fiscal year was 24,000. The library hosted 361 programs for the year, which was an increase from 2013. Attendance for all of programs rose from 4,500 to 5,625 this year, which illustrates how important the library is to the town of Westhampton. In July we had record breaking circulation.

By request, a baby/toddler play group now meets weekly at the library. We continue our partnership with the Hampshire Regional Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant, hosting bi-weekly story times and playtimes.

The support of The Friends of Westhampton Public Library enables us to fund many events and projects that are not a part of our budget. This past year, The Friends donated funds to pay for the North Road sidewalk in front of the library, the Goshen stone terrace in front of the Judd House, and furniture for the terrace. They also funded supplies for children's programs, the All Hamptons Reads program, and a plaque for the Judd House, extra programs, mulch and gravel for landscaping, and the previously mentioned publicity director's position. The Friends provide "Fill the Shelves" funds raised during their membership drive and contribute to programs, concerts, and art exhibits. They also sponsored The Fall Festival in October, which was full of wonderful activities and events for families to enjoy.

The Trustees developed a library website this year (www.whamplib.com) which was one of our goals. We have a good working relationship with the Director and work well as a team, updating or adding any policies as needed, overseeing the budget and finances for the building and grounds, and supervising and evaluating the Director.

We are fortunate to have a steady team of volunteers whom we would like to thank: Victoria Yoshen, Ellice Gonzalez, Helene Pajak, and Lorraine Clapp O'Keefe, who volunteer inside of the library; Tom Martin, Bev Montague, and Sally Lawton volunteer their time to maintain the library's beautiful landscaping. In addition, Steve Holt, John Shaw, and Wayne Cernak donated their services to maintain the library's lawns.

Our requested budget for the new fiscal year will help us to continue providing outstanding services and promoting lifelong literacy and learning in the town of Westhampton.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn K. Cooper, Chair
Maureen Dempsey, Treasurer
Sarah K. Mulvehill, Secretary
Andrea Belanger
Carol McMurrich
Mikki Nevins
Board of Trustees

REPORT OF THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Westhampton Cultural Council was allotted $4300 by the State Council to fund grant applications in FY15. $199 was allotted this year for expenses (an odd number, but one that balanced the budget).

With previous balance, including earned interest, and our FY 2015 allotment we were able to grant $4104.62. We received 26 grants and approved 14.

The following applications were approved for FY15:

Deane Bates/WES	$624
Emily Neuburger/Story Stone Workshop	$200
Friend of Westhampton Library/Field of Dreams	$500
Jim Manning/Every Hero Has A Story	$415.62
Charles Neville/Jazz Improvisation	$300
Amy Cyr/Otha Day Drum to the Beat	$100
Karen Tetrault/Science Mural HRHS	$200
Hilltown Families	$100
Lara Ramsey/Readers Theater Camp	$400
Grown in Westhampton	$300
Elizabeth Meyersohn/Artist's Talk	$200
HRHS/Spring Musical	$100
Animal World Exp./Hunger Games Course	$415
Westhampton Public Library/Swords through Ages	$250

The Council tries to present a well-balanced distribution of projects/arts/music/theatre in order to benefit all residents of Westhampton. Please contact the Selectboard and/or Ann Lewis, Chair WCC, if you wish to be appointed to the Council, or with any ideas for future grants and rewards.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lewis, Chair	Julie Held
Robbie Heidinger	Sarah Mulvehill
Jackie Brodeur	John Zimmerman
Robby Armenti	Greg Reynolds

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY CARETAKER

Routine clean-up and maintenance completed in early spring continuing until late Fall.

Grub control was performed by Charles Norris in late June 2014.

The equipment is in good working condition for its age.

I would recommend a zero turn rear discharge commercial mower.

There were:

6 Traditional burials and 10 cremations

Beginning in early April 2014 until Mid-December 2014.

7 burial lots were acquired.

9 monument foundations were installed.

Loven Construction completed re-grading and seeding on the North side cemetery expansion in late May 2014.

I would like to thank the Westhampton Highway Department for their assistance this year. I would also like to thank Don Fox and the Westhampton Fire Department for continuing to keep the water tanks filled at the cemetery.

I can be reached by calling (413) 527-6480 or (413) 626-2259.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward H. Thornton
Cemetery Superintendent

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Members of the Historical Commission for 2014 were Richard W. Tracy, chair; Steven Brooks, Robert Dragon Sr., and Daniel Krug Sr. Sadly, in the spring we lost Danny shortly after his 90th birthday. Danny had been actively involved with the historical activities of the town since the 1970's, and a member of the commission for nearly that long. Always with the support of his wife Jessie, he was involved with the Blacksmith Shop Museum from the time it was moved to its present location, and throughout all of the additions and expansions that have evolved over the years. We will miss Danny with his smile, his special laugh, and his always positive attitude. Fortunately, Danny has been replaced as a commission member by his son Daniel Krug Jr.

Also, during this year, our long time treasurer of the Friends of The Blacksmith Museum, Geraldine Ognibene, has moved away from Westhampton after faithfully serving in that position for many, many years. H. Davis Goddard has stepped into that position, and now meets with us on a regular basis. As in years past, Barbara Pelissier the president of the Historical Society, also meets with us at most of our monthly meetings and we always appreciate all the wisdom she has to offer.

The Commission operates the Blacksmith Shop Museum which is open every Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, from Memorial Day until the third Sunday in October. The Museum is also available for requests or special occasions. We still have our annual Chicken Bar-B-Cue in July, and we hope to see you and your families on that occasion. We have continued for the second year to feature the history of the Loudville Lead Mines, under the auspices of Mr. Wayne Perrea, who formerly lived in that area.

During 2014 we have received a sizable bequest from the estate of Mr. Howard Clapp, a lifetime resident of Westhampton. We are excited to have that available to be used for improvements and programs which would otherwise not be possible. The first use of that bequest was for the purchase of a computer and software, which will allow us to display many of the pictures the museum has acquired, and to get us started on a more professional inventory system. We

also hope with this equipment, to be able to start a program of digitizing printed artifacts of town families. This will allow us to preserve these pictures, letters, and diaries and still allow them to be kept in the hands of the respective families. So much to be done!!

We are planning in 2015 to do construction work which will allow more display space to be available in the blacksmith portion of the museum, and at the same time present some memorial display to recognize the contributions of Danny and Howard. We also want to continue to supply artifacts to the public library throughout the year to help people understand more of our town's history. Come see us sometime!

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy, Chairman

BLACKSMITH SHOP ON STAGE ROAD

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Members of the WCC: Steve Holt (Chair), Brad Morse, Fred Morrison, Peter Cleary, Bob LaPalme (Secretary).

Under **The Wetlands Protection Act**, eight "interests" are protected by town conservation commissions across the state. Those commissions process thousands of applications every year for permits to do work in and near wetlands, floodplains, banks, riverfront areas, beaches and surface waters (source: Mass. Assn. of Conservation Commissions). The eight important public values subject to protection referred to as "interests" are 1. Protection of public and private water supply 2. protection of groundwater supply 3. flood control 4. storm damage prevention 5.prevention of pollution 6. protection of land containing shellfish 7. protection of fisheries 8. protection of wildlife habitat.

What follows is a brief summary of WCC activities for year 2014:

Site visit	9
Determination (informal, no further action)	5
Public hearing	4
Request for Determination (RDA)	6
Notice of Intent	3
Order of conditions	3
Violation concern	1
Enforcement order	0
Emergency septic repair	1
Cutting plan notification	6

Conservation Restricted Properties annually monitored by WCC:

- Westahmpton Public Library Conservation Restricted Area
- Kestral Land Trust Conservation Restricted Area; Skibiski
- Kestral Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Sarafin
- Hilltown Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Weiss donor
- Kestral Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Glass donor

Respectfully submitted,

Bob LaPalme, Secretary

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Looking back at 2014, I am reminded that our schools must always be looking forward as we prepare our students to be "21st century learners" with the promise of making them "future ready" lifelong learners. Our teachers and school administrators are told that we're preparing students for jobs and careers that don't exist yet, in some case haven't even been imagined. While it is our responsibility to meet this challenge and work through the ambiguities it presents, we continue to stay grounded in our understanding that our towns and schools work together as "Five Towns, One K-12 Community" to achieve our goal of providing all of our students with the safety and support they need to grow and succeed. We are indeed, thinking globally and acting locally in every one of our classrooms.

Last year our actions included:

•The complete renovation and reconstruction of the Anne T. Dunphy School in Williamsburg.
• A new roof on the William E. Norris School in Southampton
• A new roof and entry at the Westhampton Elementary School
• Hiring a new School Principal at William E. Norris. Welcome Principal Pluta.
• Hiring a new Principal at Hampshire Regional High School. Welcome Principal Smidy.
• Implementation of a new elementary math curriculum for grades K-6 in all school
• Numerous improvements to special education services and programs
• Implementation of ImPACT testing for student athletes to establish baseline neurocognitive data that can be used assess the effects of concussions.
• Provision of on-site flu shots and nutritional programming for school staff

To be effective, we rely on highly skilled, qualified, and compassionate teachers and support staff. As a group, they ensure that

our schools support our students and community. As individuals, they come to the District with varied backgrounds and training and everyone makes a unique contribution. Each year the Grinspoon Foundation recognizes the contributions individual teachers with the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards. For 2014, Mark Cavallon (HRHS business teacher), Karie Neal (New Hingham art teacher), and Michael O'Connell (New Hingham, Williamsburg and Westhampton gym/PE teacher). Ms. Karen Schweitzer was presented with a Local Hero award from the Ronald McDonald Charities for her work supporting children.

The Hampshire Regional School District is made up of five districts: Hampshire and Chesterfield-Goshen Regional School Districts and the municipal schools of Williamsburg, Westhampton, and Southampton. Annual budget preparation is a complicated process due to the structure of the District and the budgeting requirements and expectations of individual towns, as well as the budgeting requirements set by state law for regional school districts. School budgets provide the backdrop for telling the story of a school. How a school appropriates and uses its available funding translates to and defines what is important to the administration, teachers, support staff and the community because it represents what these groups want and need to provide to their students. Percentages increases and decreases vary from one school to another but broadly speaking, most funding fits into five main categories: salaries, administrative support, materials, contracted services, and transportation. From one budget year to another, school administrators work with local officials and community members to ensure that each school budget is adequate, equitable, and predictable and developed with input from all stakeholders in a clear and transparent process. The support of our member communities is appreciated as much as it is essential to the future of our students and communities.

School safety and emergency preparedness planning require coordinated activity and connections with local police, fire, ambulance, and emergency managers. A team of educators attended a "Safe School Summit" and a two day workshop on "Multi-Hazard

Emergency Planning for Schools". In October, Dr. Ruth Potee, a Greenfield family practice physician and member of DA Sullivan's Opioid Task Force provided a program for the district and community titled "Protecting the Developing Brain: The Impact of Drugs". Additionally the Massachusetts State Police provided safety training for all district administrative assistants. Revisions to our Medical Emergency Plans and Emergency Operations Procedures are ongoing. At individual schools and as a District, we continue to tighten daily procedures (including those that are in place to protect students on their way to and from school). We continue to refine our procedures and make changes were necessary. All school staff are very appreciative of the support and training we receive from State and local police, fire, and other emergency management personnel. Training, drills, and ongoing reassessment of our needs keeps this topic fresh in our minds and continually improves our responsiveness.

Our winter weather has been hard to predict and difficult to plan for. Each year the challenge of interpreting weather forecasts and deciding when to delay or cancel school impacts everyone in our school community. District administrators and school committees have engaged in substantive discussions related to the management of the school year calendar and how to meet the states 180 day minimum requirement. All districts have worked with teachers' associations to facilitate flexibility in starting school prior to Labor Day each year and to promote coordinated calendar scheduling. That said, we still are faced with challenging decisions about school cancellations and delays. These decision are not always understood by parents and community members and certainly do not please everyone. The decision to close or delay, however, is always based on careful consideration of the impact the weather will have on safe travel to and from school for our students and staff. Highway superintendents, bus company supervisors, other district administrators (our own, as well as those in neighboring districts) are all consulted. Some decisions are more easily made than others, some admittedly simply turn out to be wrong but every decision is informed by all available information and the need to ensure that our students and staff can safely travel to school and back home.

After its local elementary school was closed in 2010, a group of Worthington parents formed a committee for the purpose of reopening their school. Late last year, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approved Worthington's plan to create a new public school district and reopen the R.H. Conwell School. Hampshire Regional's agreement to provide administrative supports and services was an integral part of the plan. Going forward, Worthington will re-open and operate R.H. Conwell as a preschool to sixth grade public schools. Worthington's high school students can choose to tuition into HRHS but Worthington will not become a member of the Hampshire Regional School District or of School Union 66 which is comprised of Southampton, Williamsburg, and Westhampton. The R.H. Conwell School is scheduled to open in September 2015.

I am very proud of the work our teachers, support staff, and administrators have done to enhance learning opportunities and achievement outcomes for all students. Our work together in the schools and communities is complex, sometimes overwhelming, and yet unquestionably essential and rewarding. Together we make a positive difference in the lives of our students, their families, and the communities in which we work. We are increasingly coming together as a learning community and engage in expanding our shared commitment for improving the education we provide to our children. I encourage you to visit the individual school's or Superintendent's website (www.hr-k12.org) for current news and information about our students and District activities. This website will also provide you with links to individual school websites and to useful information from numerous resources. Whenever you have a question or wish to become involved in your community schools, please call me.

Respectfully Submitted by

Craig Jurgensen, Superintendent of Schools

REPORT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Federal and state law requires that students from 3-22 years of age who are identified as having a disability are provided with individually designed instruction to meet their unique learning needs. The Hampshire Regional School District provides services to 384 students with disabilities on Individualized Education Programs (IEP). Students in each of the five schools receive special education services both in and out of the general education classroom. These services are provided by special education certified teachers and related service providers. Current related services include: occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, nursing/medical services, counseling, autism consultation clinical consultation, vision therapy, and teacher of the deaf services.

School	Total Enrollment	Special Educat students
Hampshire	747	134
New Hingham	155	25
Westhampton	149	37
Williamsburg	157	30
Norris	550	104
Smith Vocational	37	37
Out of District	17	17
Total	1812	384

During the 2013-2014 school year the district complete a Coordinated Program Review for each district in the areas of: Special Education, Civil Rights and English Language Learner programs. The program review resulted in few findings requiring corrective action. School Principals and the Director of Pupil Services are working together implement all required program improvements.

The Hampshire Regional Special Education Parent Advisory Counsel (HRSEPAC) meets monthly as a group and annually with principals.

The activities of HRSEPAC include advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; development, and evaluation of special education programs, and collaboration designee to improve. The HRSEPAC continues to recruit representatives from Chesterfield-Goshen and Westhampton districts.

Teachers in each building have started intensive training in the Orton Gillingham approach to reading. The teachers will complete their training in May, 2015 and will be able to implement their training in the fall of 2015. The long-term goal is to have a teacher in the district trained to be an Orton-Gillingham trainer. Having a specialized reading program in each school will improve services to students with language-based learning disabilities.

On the elementary level, a program was created at the W.E. Norris School in Southampton to support children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other social, emotional and behavioral needs. Also in Southampton, a specialized preschool program is designed to meet the needs of students with moderate to severe special needs.

At HRHS, the Life Skills program has undergone review and change. The middle school program is designed to teach and assess whether students will take an academic or life/skills/vocational track in high school. The Transition to Adulthood program for students who are 18-22 years old includes an option for to participate in the Holyoke Community College's Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Program. For students seeking a work experience, they are working with a job coach to secure competitive employment. A Peer Mentoring program was added to support students with disabilities as they develop relationships with typical students with whom they can interact throughout their school day.

The Clarke Mainstream program at HRHS added two freshmen to the cohort of four juniors. HRHS has implemented numerous changes and improvements to provide for greater information access of auditory information including video display monitors for

announcements and information-sharing throughout the school. HRHS also added hired a high school language-based learning disabilities teacher to meet the needs of students transitioning to high school from the middle school.

Respectfully submitted by,

Irene Ryan, Director of Pupil Services

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Because of the commitment, hard work, and collective vision of the Hampshire Regional High School community, students at Hampshire Regional are thriving in a safe and positive environment. We have continued to develop and add to the rigorous course and program offerings at Hampshire to ensure that our students are ready to meet the varied demands of college and career by the time they graduate from HRHS.

On June 6, the class of 2014 graduated 126 students. Valedictorian and class President Riley Glosick of Southampton, Salutatorian Jessica Kowal of Southampton, Jackson Seifert of Goshen, and Kevin Brasil of Williamsburg were among the student speakers at the graduation ceremony at John M. Greene Hall on June 6, 2014 in Northampton. The class of 2014 was an exceptionally collegial and dynamic group, which made graduation, and life at Hampshire Regional in general, a fun and positive environment. The graduation rate was at an all-time high at 96.1%.

Even with the harmonious atmosphere, students took learning quite seriously in 2014. During the months of March, May, and June, seventh, eighth, and tenth grade students took MCAS exams; and seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth graders sat for pilot PARCC tests. The Massachusetts Department of Education ranks schools from level

one (highest performing) to level five (lowest performing). Hampshire Regional High School was ranked as a level two school for high performance overall, but we did not narrow the achievement gaps between our regular education population and our high risk population of students to meet the demands of level one. Due to high MCAS scores, 87 students, or about 70% of the Class of 2015, were awarded the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, or the Koplik award, for their performance on the exam. Students who earn this award have the opportunity for free tuition at a state university if they meet the MCAS test score requirement and additional criteria.

In May, eleventh and twelfth grade students took a total of 122 Advanced Placement exams in twelve different subjects including Calculus, Physics, Biology, English, Economics, and US History. Seventy percent of our students received a score of three or higher on their AP Exams, which affords them the opportunity to earn college credit at many higher education institutions. Their collective scores also earned Hampshire Regional High School the distinction of being named to the AP Honor Roll School by the National College Board for the second year in a row. The College Board bestows this award to districts for increasing AP access to courses while also maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning a three or higher on AP Exams. Only 33 schools in Massachusetts and 477 schools in the US and Canada met the requirements for this prestigious award.

Aside from standardized test success, students were recognized for other academic accomplishments in the classroom. Greg Reynolds' French 4 College Placement and French 4 Honors classes were awarded third place for the New England "L'Acadie en Chansons" song contest organized by the Culture of Services of the Consulate General of France. The Hampshire Regional Clarke Program has grown to include more students with hearing loss, and it has received recognition from the Clarke Alumni Council for being an inclusive academic program. At the Underclassmen Awards Ceremony in June, students earned accolades for participation, improvement, and mastery of disparate course material. Outside the classroom, students were praised for their compassion and dedication to a number of

causes. Clara Thatcher was honored for her work to raise awareness for Diabetes, collecting over 5000 dollars by hosting an awareness walk and involving Dunphy Elementary School in a poster contest. Bella Sacharczyk received national praise for her advocacy for the Juvenile Hydrocephalus Foundation.

The 2014 school year also provided many rich opportunities for students to gain a wider perspective beyond our classroom walls. Thirty-three students from Japan visited Hampshire Regional and shadowed our students on their trip abroad to the United States. Students in the upper-level Spanish classes had the opportunity to travel to Spain during April vacation to see various places and to speak both colloquial and formal Spanish. Many students also participated in extracurricular activities such as the Robotics Club, All School Match Wits, Model UN, and Student Council. These activities allowed them the chance to travel into various parts of the state and beyond. The Sound of Music, Hampshire's 2014 spring musical, was a smashing success, starring senior Emma Cook from Williamsburg and junior Dan Sullivan from Southampton. News Channel ABC40 featured Hampshire Regional High School twice (February 7 and October 31) for its unique academic programs and extracurricular activities for students. GoLocalWorcester named HRHS in the top 20% of high schools in MA because of our MCAS and SAT scores and additional school data, including graduation and drop out rates and student to staff ratios.

Hampshire Regional itself also recognized outstanding staff members in 2014. Mark Cavallon received the Grinspoon Teacher of the Year Award for Hampshire Regional. He was nominated for this award because of his leadership in the Business Department, his commitment to the school community, and his Work Study Program, as well as his natural ability to collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure student engagement in, and out of school. Veteran French and Spanish Teacher, Michelle Higgins, Special Education Teacher, Ted Hale, and Kathie Downie, a long-time paraprofessional and job coach, all retired from Hampshire after many years of service.

At the start of the 2014-2015 school year, new faculty and staff members joined our Hampshire Regional learning community. Mike Furey joined the high school Guidance Department, and he also took on an assistant coaching position for the co-op football team. Alexandra Furman and Taidgh Buckley were hired in the Science Department. Sarah Buckley and Mariano de meers Alonso were welcomed in the Foreign Language Department. Elizabeth Dwyer and Tara Winters joined the Special Education teaching staff, and Jessica Callahan and Anthony Domingo were hired as paraprofessionals. Other hires included Jami Ricard as a middle school math teacher, Leslie Robillard as a long-term sub for Amy Scully (on maternity leave), Jen Reagan as the school counseling administrative assistant and Mohamed Nagooradumai as a night custodian. In October, Jesse Porter-Henry, the Interim Assistant Principal, was offered an Assistant Principal position at Mohawk Trail Regional School District. His position was filled by Christine Murphy, a former special education teacher, Pupil Services Director, and Principal in Wethersfield, Connecticut.

The 2014-2015 school year welcomed 747 students to Hampshire Regional.

Grade	Number of Students
7	140
8	119
9	115
10	117
11	132
12	124
Total	747

This school year, Hampshire Regional focused a great deal of Professional Development time with staff as well as advisory time with students to prepare for our accreditation visit scheduled for the spring of 2016 with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Accreditation of Hampshire Regional by NEASC means that our students and staff are meeting the rigorous

criteria set forth in seven standards of teaching and judged by an outside team of evaluators. Having an accredited high school is similar to gaining membership in a professional organization such as the American Bar Association for lawyers or the American Medical Association for doctors. NEASC accreditation requires a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of the school including core values and learning expectations, curriculum, instruction, assessment, school culture, and leadership, school resources, and community resources. The process includes a year-long study where the learning community analyzes its own programs.

Through the NEASC Self-Study process, the school community determined the following four core values and five school-wide learning expectations:

Core Values:

- Intellectual Curiosity and Academic Achievement
- Responsibility and Perseverance
- Collaboration and Engagement
- Respect and Compassion

21st Century School-Wide Learning Expectations:

- Constructively utilize and provide feedback to promote social and academic growth.
- Solve increasingly complex problems both collaboratively and individually.
- Demonstrate self-reliance, integrity, and tenacity in setting and completing goals.
- Ask relevant questions and contribute respectfully to classroom discussion.
- Apply subject knowledge and skills to produce consistently high-quality work.

In addition to the NEASC work, the HRHS School Council has determined five additional goals for the school to accomplish in its school improvement plan. These goals include preparing students to

be college and career ready, sharing information about academic and extracurricular accomplishments with the five member towns, aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment to the Common Core, using data to monitor, inform, plan, and adjust programs, and ensuring protocols and practice for student safety.

Even with these goals in mind, I am confident that our school community already fosters a stimulating learning environment for our students. Despite the increased demands to the teaching profession from local and federal policy, and from unfunded mandates, I am proud that Hampshire Regional teachers, counselors, nurses, paraprofessionals, administrators, service providers, staff, Central Office workers, and School Committee members consistently put our students' needs at the center of our collective efforts. The collegial and collaborative atmosphere is truly a benchmark of this school and the district.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Smidy, Principal

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal Deane Bates is pleased to report that the last year at Westhampton Elementary has been positive and productive. We have been able to make wonderful progress towards our long-term goals of continued improvement of the educational program and maintaining and updating our facilities.

The recent capital project that involved replacing the roof, the addition of snow guards, and redesigning the roof above the front entrance and cafeteria service door has been completed. In addition to these renovations, the front entrance doors were replaced. The new front doors feature electronic locks and safety glass. I am happy to

report that Westhampton Elementary has been able to make all of the upgrades that were suggested by emergency service personnel.

This year, both of our reading specialists are receiving training in Orton Gillingham reading instruction. Fortunately, we were able to pay for this training through grant funding. In addition to being another approach for reading instruction, this training has the potential to help struggling readers make progress, and serve as another valuable resource for our teachers to draw from in teaching students to read. Both of these staff members have volunteered to do reading instruction outside of the normal school hours.

This is the first year of our implementation of the Envisions math program district wide. The adoption of this program is an important step in focusing our efforts and maintaining a consistent approach toward math instruction in Kindergarten through grade six. Teachers have been receiving regular opportunities to train with representatives from the programs publisher Pearson Education. Our teaching staff has had several occasions to meet together with their colleagues and administrators from across our district to plan and review our current math implementation. I am confident that this work will pay dividends, as we continue our efforts to improve math instruction in our school and district.

Our Preschool has begun implementing Teaching Strategies Gold. This is an on going assessment and reporting instrument that helps teachers in planning appropriate learning experiences. TSG will help to improve coordination of the Preschool curriculum district wide as well as provide a more consistent process for reporting student progress to our Preschool parents.

We continue our efforts in integrating technology into the curriculum; most recently using grant funding to purchase an interactive projector to be used in Kindergarten. Additional purchases of laptops and iPads were made to help students with learning disabilities better access curriculum and content during their school day. John Heffernan from Williamsburg once again taught a robotics program at the school. All of our students have the opportunity to have robotics for at least part of the school year. The pace of

maintaining our commitment to the technology program has been slowed considerably by the lack of funding.

Once again staffing has shifted, Andria Wolf retired after 35 years of service. Lindsey Meisner has taken over her role as the Special Education Teacher. In Preschool, we have two new special education aides to provide special education support. Deb Connell and Katherine Elsea are taking over for Deanna Scarfe and Amy Hyde who both left to take positions in other schools. Both of these new hires come with experience in education and have plans to pursue teaching as a profession.

At last years' town meeting in May, after much debate, it was decided to vote the finance committee recommendation and to put the remaining $ 38,000.00 of the school committee's request up for an override vote. The next month community members passed this override by a convincing margin. I would like to thank this community for their continued support in helping to maintain staffing that included a special education paraprofessional.

This year we will once again have exceptional costs associated with our special education program. It is our obligation to provide specialized programming for students when we are unable to meet their needs with existing staff or programs. This year we are better able to anticipate the cost of these services and budget appropriately. Once again this year we will be using a large chunk of our school choice money to cover these costs and keep the operational budget request reasonable.

As part of the No Child Left Behind Program schools and districts are placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing in Level 1 and lowest performing in Level 5. **Our school has consistently earned Level 1 status.** Schools are also ranked using percentiles: A school percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number shows the overall performance of our school relative to other schools that serve the same or similar grades. **Our school percentile rank is 82.** This means that our school is performing higher than 82 percent of the elementary schools in the state. Incidentally, Massachusetts's

public schools are among the highest performing schools in the country.

Another measure used is the Progress and Performance Index (PPI): The PPI is a number that indicates our school's progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, or, in other words, helping all students reach proficiency and be prepared for success in high school and beyond. Massachusetts has set a goal of reducing proficiency gaps by half between the years 2011 and 2017. For a group of students to be considered to be making sufficient progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, its cumulative PPI must be 75 or higher. **Our cumulative progress and performance index is 86.**

Our success has made Westhampton Elementary a popular destination for school choice students. In recent years, the School Choice Program has enabled us to have another source of revenue and helped us to continue to be responsive to student needs. Although we have many applications each year for potential choice students we are conservative in accepting new students to ensure reasonable class sizes and maintenance of our ability to service students from our community. Each year we take a substantial amount of choice money that we receive and use it to offset increases in the budget. This has for many years allowed us to keep budget increases reasonable. In addition to using choice money in these ways it is imperative to use this money to continue to make improvements in our educational programs to keep Westhampton Elementary in a strong position to best serve our students and remain an attractive school for choice candidates.

In the coming year I hope to use some of our choice funds to help develop programs for band and instrumental lesson during the school day. In addition to being a great activity and learning a new skill, students that take music develop their brains in many ways that help them to become better learners and better prepare them to meet the increasingly difficult academic demands of high school and college.

We have for many years now been having physical education for one day per week. I believe that our students would benefit from

increasing their level of physical activity. Increased opportunities for physical activity will surely benefit our students in many ways not the least of which is improving their ability to concentrate and pay attention in class. In the coming year I hope to use some of choice funds to add another physical activity component to the school day where students would have the opportunity to engage in physical activity programs that traditional physical education classes don't offer.

Safety continues to be a major focus of our work together. Our staff and students worked with local fire and police as well as representatives from the state police to improve and refine our safety plan in the event of an emergency. Again this year, we had opportunities to practice fire drills and a lock down drill with support from emergency service personnel. These drills are an important part of emergency preparedness. Officer Phil provided training for students in grades pre-school through 4th grade in personal safety and making good choices. We continue to update and refine our policies and practices regarding life threatening allergies and responding to crisis situations at recess. All of our staff members have received training in responding to these types of emergencies. I want to express appreciation to Police Chief Dave White and Fire Chief Chris Norris, School Committee member Ashleigh Norris and all members of our local emergency services for their dedication and support in helping our students and staff make our school a safe place for children.

I am proud of this school, our staff and these students. We will always do our best to meet the needs of our families and to be responsible financial partners with our town.

Respectfully submitted.

Deane Bates, Principal

REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

Annual Report for fiscal year 2014

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC) was created 26 years ago by a group of dedicated volunteers who had the vision to seek a regional solution to help small towns with volunteer local boards attain sustainability and environmental objectives.

The member Towns that comprise the HRMC includes: Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington. Each Town appoints two representatives to serve on the HRMC Board. Board Officers for FY14 included: Joe Kearns, Chair (from Middlefield); Adam Leach, Vice Chair (from Worthington); and, Tom Martin, Treasurer (from Westhampton). Eric Weiss, HRMC Administrator has been managing and operating the HRMC as a half-time contractor since its inception. In June, Eric announced that he would be leaving the helm of the HRMC to serve as the Executive Director of the MHEC.

The HRMC has been providing guidance to its member towns on recycling, municipal waste disposal hauling and disposal, and compliance assistance and sustainability services. In fiscal year 2013 those services included:

- Monitoring of Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF) program hauling
- Monitoring of Municipal Solid Waste Hauling and Disposal
- Negotiating a new MRF contract with DEP and Waste Management
- Sponsoring an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event
- Program management of Transfer Station Recyclables including collection, hauling and recycling of tires, electronic

waste, universal waste (i.e. fluorescent lights, compact fluorescent lights, ballasts, and non-alkaline batteries), and Freon removal from white goods (appliances)
- Transfer Station operations monitoring
- Preparing bids and contracts for transfer station equipment
- Preparing bids for environmental monitoring activities

For the past 2½ years, the HRMC has managed a regional recycling and hauling contract for its 10 member communities.

In addition to the managing the day to day operations of the HRMC, the HRMC Administrator also serves as a representative on behalf of its member Towns to the MRF Municipal Advisory Board; provides technical assistance on DEP and compliance related issues, advocates with local, regional, and State officials, and researches and drafts grant submittals.

In FY13, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced their Small-Scale Initiative Grants under the annual Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). Every HRMC town received a grant award of $500. Collectively, the grant awards totaled $ 5,000, which was pooled to acquire a new roll-off container for regional rotation. In addition, in the Municipal Advisory Board provided free blue recycling bins that were distributed to the member Towns.

The HRMC has an annual assessment which is approved by each Town at their annual Town meeting. The annual Assessment Budget is based on tonnage and population. In FY13 the combined assessment for all ten towns was $39,487.56. After two years of budget reductions, the Assessment Budget has remained level funded for the past 4 years. The HRMC also receives grant and recycling revenues to supplement its budget and the program efforts on behalf of its member communities. Many of the program costs are passed through the HRMC to have oversight of contracts and enable the HRMC administrator to have review and oversight on program operations.

In fiscal year 2013, the HRMC member Towns collectively diverted 1,042.61 tons of recyclable materials (paper, and bottles/cans) to the MRF and earned $20,363.35 in recycling revenue.

Why recycle?

- Recycling saves energy, which helps slow climate change
- Recycling saves natural resources and wildlife habitat
- Recycling provides nearly 19,000 jobs in Massachusetts
- Recycling Saves Money by avoiding disposal and tipping fees

The HRMC looks forward to continuing to assist the member Towns during the upcoming year. If you have questions about HRMC programs, call us at 413-685-5498 or by email at hrmc@hrmc-ma.org.

Kathleen A. Casey

HRMC Administrator

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Hampshire Council of Governments (Council) is a membership based organization that solves common challenges through regional solutions while retaining local control over local affairs. The combined dues for the Council of Governments in Fiscal Year 2014 were $52,255.85. The dues collected help support Council programs and services. It is the continued goal of the Council to increase revenues from a variety of sources to offset the assessment and to expand services.

For every dollar spent on Council programs, participating western Massachusetts communities receive at least three dollars back in taxpayer savings and value. All of our programs and services are designed to save taxpayer money, keep investments local, and contribute to a healthy, sustainable environment. All revenue generated is reinvested back into local communities.

ADMINISTRATION

The Council began a campaign to address significant areas of deterioration of the structural integrity of the historic Courthouse. The cost to restore the Courthouse is in excess of $3.7 million. The Council approached local Community Preservation Act Committees requesting financial support. The Council was pleased and honored that the City of Northampton and Town of Goshen awarded the Council funds to help towards improving the safety and historical integrity of Old Courthouse. State and federal funding sources will also be identified because the building is owned by the 'inhabitants of Hampshire County' and is our shared historic legacy.

ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT

Hampshire Power is the only local electricity supplier with a non-profit mission to save you money and keep electricity dollars in the local economy. Achievements in FY 2014:

- In conjunction with our Hampshire Solar program, signed 5-year electricity supply agreements with several local municipalities.
- Responded to the changing electricity market characterized by high price volatility and extremely high winter electricity pricing by transitioning from Real-Time to Fixed-Price electricity contracts that offer long term rates designed to be below the default utility price.
- Initiated an outreach campaign to educate customers about the changing electricity market.
- Put in place the mechanisms and infrastructure necessary to offer fixed-price electricity contracts and to serve large loads.
- Marketed to a broad base of customers within western Massachusetts as well as in central and eastern Massachusetts.
- Was awarded the winning bid to serve the Municipal/Community Choice Aggregation of Lancaster.
- Attended the 37th New England Governors & Eastern Canadian Premiers Conference which focuses on energy issues and clean energy goals for the region, which resulted in a community solar initiative in partnership with MassDOT.
- Explored options for offering green power to its customers.

Community Choice Aggregation is a program for residential and business customers designed to bring choice, control, and cost savings to the electricity market. As of June 2014, thirty-five towns and cities are working to use their buying power to enhance the savings opportunities. (As of December 2014, 43 municipalities were included, with others expected to join in 2015.) The program is expecting full state approval shortly.

Residents of additional communities are already seeing the benefits as Hampshire Power serves residents and businesses with lower prices.

Municipal Services

Hampshire Purchasing Cooperative: The Cooperative is celebrating its 33rd year serving western Massachusetts' communities and school districts. The program coordinates and administers a formal bidding process on behalf of Council departments, municipalities, school districts, human service agencies, and miscellaneous governmental entities throughout the Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire County region. Buying in bulk generates added savings over lone bidding efforts while complying with state procurement statutes and eliminating duplication of administrative work. The total purchasing volume for goods and services for Fiscal Year 2014 was $6,598,627.54 with an estimated savings of $750,732.36 for participating communities.

Hampshire IT: The Council operates a professional, affordable, and comprehensive IT service tailored to municipalities and school districts by partnering with Paragus, Strategic IT. The program has experienced growth over the past year and continues to add new towns. The more towns join the contract, the lower the hourly rate for everyone participating in the program.

Regional Municipal Accounting and Bookkeeping: Recognizing that towns have experienced a decline in available and qualified town accountants, the Council established a professional accounting and bookkeeping service. In Fiscal Year 2014 the Council provided accounting services for the Towns of Chesterfield, Goshen, Granby and Westhampton as well as for not-for-profits including WiredWest, Springfield Materials Recycling Facility, Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, Northampton Business Improvement District, and New Century Theatre.

Healthy Hampshire/Mass in Motion Grant: The Council was awarded a multi-year grant from the Massachusetts Department

of Public Health to create Healthy Hampshire (HH) and we have been working through municipal and community leaders to effect changes to community policies and systems that have been shown to have a measurable impact on health. Goals of Healthy Hampshire include:

- Improve nutritional quality of school meals and snacks
- Increase the number of students walking and biking to school
- Increase the number of healthy options available to consumers in small retail outlets
- Create healthy design standards for municipalities to follow when considering any new development or retrofits

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY GROUP INSURANCE TRUST (HCGIT)

The Trust has once again held their costs down with no premium increases for the 2014 Insurance Year. The Hampshire Councilors serve as the trustees of the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust, a cooperative effort to provide health and life insurance with excellent benefits at competitive rates. An Insurance Advisory Committee, made up of representatives of all participating units, meets regularly to discuss problems and possible solutions and to explore new ideas. The Trust manages a self-funded group of health insurance products.

In the Insurance Year 2014 (April 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014), the collective premium for the Trust was approximately $48 million. Through the efforts and expertise of the Trust management, the volume of participation in the program, and the participation of the town representatives on the Advisory Board, the Insurance Trust is successful at managing costs while providing excellent health benefits.

Wellness Initiative Program

The Wellness Initiative is a worksite wellness program promoting healthier choices and behaviors among employees covered by the HCGIT. Utilizing the health risk data from insurance claims as

well as needs and interest surveys from employees to develop health and health promotion programs.

This year more than 20 Worksite Wellness Mini grants were awarded to fund Wellness Teams helping to develop and implement wellness programs. These grants allow employees to develop evidence based programs to address the risks of employees where they work.

A few of the many programs supported by the Wellness Initiative included:

- Spring and Fall Challenges – over 400 employees participated in these online physical fitness challenges by walking, biking, and running. They logged thousands of hours, steps and miles.
- Health Screenings – conducted at worksites to help employees know and understand their biometric numbers and make healthier choices.
- Ahealthyme – an online health and wellness portal launched this year in collaboration with BCBS to help subscribers take greater control of their health using personal health assessments, and online workshops to track their progress.
- Colonoscopy Promotion – as a result of our multiyear promotion beginning in April 2011 to encourage subscribers to have a colonoscopies the Trust has gone from 51% participation in this screening to nearly 75% reducing colorectal cancer among our members.
- Ergonomic assessments – help employees adapt their workstations to improve their posture and health.
- Sleep workshops – while we understand the importance of sleep, many people have trouble sleeping. Dr. Siegfried Haug helps employees understand and implement behaviors to improve their sleep.

SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Sustainability Department is to promote green energy development and energy conservation projects throughout Western Massachusetts. The Council seeks to strengthen local

economies through resource conservation, increased efficiency, and by keeping renewable energy monies in the region. In Fiscal Year 2014, the Sustainability Department has:

- Expanded the Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) brokering program to 214 clients and 1,874 kW of capacity under contract.
- As part of the Green Communities Project, assisted the Town of Middlefield in the installation of new heating systems at the Highway Garage and Fire Station and prepared bids for new windows and doors at the Highway Garage.
- Worked closely with Hampshire Power to create and offer and financially viable solar net metering option for Hampshire Power member municipalities.
- Explored the possibility of locating a Community Solar Array in which residents can buy in access to the array.
- Provided consulting services on the development of a 950kW array in Central Massachusetts.
- Managed the 850 kW Wilbraham Landfill Solar Array project.
- Provided consulting services to the Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium to develop regional bids for household hazardous waste management and collection on college campuses.
- Established protocol for SREC II program.
- Will broker approximately 1,400 SREC's at the DOER July 2014 auction.

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)

RSVP of Hampshire & Franklin Counties is the Council's community service program that mobilizes adults age 55+ to meet community needs by recruiting, placing, and supporting volunteers in a diverse array of service opportunities at local non-profit and public agencies. The program benefits the senior population by keeping them active and engaged, and benefits our region by bringing these volunteers' dedication, wisdom, and expertise to bear on our communities' most pressing needs.

- During Fiscal Year 2014, 638 RSVP volunteers gave more than 101,000 hours of service to our communities, equaling a contribution of more than $2.7 million.
- RSVP volunteers serve at senior centers, hospitals, nonprofits, schools, libraries, after school programs, and survival centers in towns across the two counties.

The following are some examples of the impact RSVP volunteers are having on our communities:

- Through RSVP's Osteoporosis Exercise Program, 65 volunteers led weekly strength training classes for more than 600 seniors
- 227 volunteers increased the capacity of nonprofits to serve the needs of our community through fundraising and program support.
- 140 volunteers increased food security in our region through service at food banks, survival centers, and senior meal programs.
- 267 volunteers improved the quality of life for more than 13,000 seniors by leading activities and providing information at senior centers.

THE TOBACCO FREE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (TFCP)

The Hampshire and Franklin County Tobacco Free Community Partnership (TFCP) supports communities' efforts to lower smoking prevalence and exposure to secondhand smoke by enhancing state and local tobacco control efforts, exposing tobacco industry tactics, mobilizing the community to support and adopt evidence-based policies, and changing social norms. Funded by the Massachusetts Cessation and Prevention program, TFCP serves as a resource for local coalitions, health and human service agencies, municipalities, and workplaces on tobacco intervention efforts. The programs successes include:

- Passed updated tobacco regulations in three Hampshire County towns that prohibit the sale of tobacco in health care institutions (including pharmacies), restrict the sale of single

cheap cigars, ban the sale of blunt wraps, and limit youth access to nicotine delivery products like e-cigarettes.

- A strong presence in creating Smoke Free Environments. In addition to efforts that resulted in the Yankee Candle Company implementing a tobacco free property policy at their flagship store, distribution center and corporate headquarters, Yankee Hill apartments (Easthampton) and the Ware Housing Authority have also adopted a smoke free policy within their housing developments. These policies eliminate the risk of secondhand smoke exposure.
- Individual presentations were made at over 16 community based organization regarding Other Tobacco Products (OTP) and smoking cessation and smoke free housing policy. These presentations were frequently addressed to family support staff within the organizations.

For further information on Council programs, expenses, and revenues, please contact the Administrative Office at 413-584-1300 ext. 2. You may also visit the Council website at www.hampshirecog.org, FB, and Twitter.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Ford, Executive Director
Hampshire Council of Government

SALARIES

All figures are annual unless otherwise noted.

ELECTED OFFCIALS	FY2015	Proposed FY16
Selectboard Chairman	1500	1525
Others	1300	1325
Board of Assessors Chairman	2775	2800
Others	2525	2550
Board of Health each	100	125
Moderator	450	475
School Committee Chairman	480	505
Others	450	475
Tree Warden	600	625
APPOINTED OFFICIALS		
Town Clerk	12180	12608
Town Accountant	11400	14708
Treasurer	14349	14708
Clerk, Bd. Registrars	100	100
Election Workers	8.84/hr.	9.06/hr.
Administrative Assistant	30000	30750
Tax Collector	14349	14708
Assessor Assistant	13838	14184
COA Coordinator	12.92/hr.	13.24/hr.
Animal Inspector	0	800
Animal Control Officer	0	1625
Animal Inspector/ACO	2400	0
Veterans Agent	1615	1655
Building Inspector	9618	10918
Wiring	30/inspection	30/inspection
Plumbing Inspectors	20/inspection	20/inspection
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		
Grade1A	23.18/hr.	23.78/hr.
Grade 1	22.16/hr.	22.76/hr.
Superintendent	59466	60953
Transfer Station Attendant	12.09/hr.	12.59/hr.
LIBRARY Director	44905	46028
Staff Librarian	15.09/hr.	15.47/hr.
Custodian	10.77/hr.	11.04/hr.
Program Organizer	500	500
TOWN HALL Custodian	10.77/hr.	11.04/hr.
Snow Removal	16.55/hr.	16.96/hr.
POLICE CHIEF	26908	27581
Officers – Regular	15.76/hr.	16.15/hr.
Sergeant	18.91/hr.	19.38/hr.
Court	17.37/hr.	17.78/hr.
FIRE CHIEF	10769	11038
EMERGENCY MGT DIR	416	441
CEMETERY CARETAKER	5892	6039

PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL 2016

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	FY2015	FY2016
Counsel Fees	15000	20000
Moderator	450	475
Selectboard Salary	4100	4175
Selectboard Expense	4100	4600
Administrative Assistant	30000	30750
Town Accountant Salary	11400	14708
Town Accountant Expense	3865	3865
Audit	7000	14000
Assessor Salary	7825	7900
Assessor Expense	8772	16672
Assessor Assistant	13838	14184
Treasurer Salary	14349	14708
Treasurer Expense	5400	5400
Tax Title Expense	3500	3500
Tax Collector Salary	14349	14708
Tax Collector Expense	12456	13349
Town Clerk Salary	12180	12608
Town Clerk Expense	4000	5000
Clerk, Board of Registrars	100	100
Conservation Commission	200	225
Zoning Board Expense	600	600
Planning Board Expense	200	300
HIGHWAYS		
Highway Administration	4940	5550
Highway Salaries	204206	209311
Highway Materials	87125	89000
Road Machinery	42684	41701
Road Machinery Fuel	43050	43050
Snow Removal	85000	102000
Road Machinery Buildings	28441	29887
Transfer Station Expenses	59960	61360
Transfer Station Expenses	59960	60514
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES		
Hampshire Regional HS	1154541	1159409
HRHS Capital	78688	73977
Vocational Tuition	248750	367084
Vocational Transportation	55076	55820
Elementary School	1483480	1566543
School Committee Salary	1380	1455
Library	87641	90396

VETERANS		
Veterans Expense	9060	9060
Veterans Agent Salary	1615	1655
Memorial Day	200	200
Cultural Council	75	100
CEMETERIES		
Cemetery Salary	5892	6039
PROT. OF PERS. & PROP.		
Police Chief	26908	27581
Police Department	48199	49727
Fire Chief	10769	11038
Emergency Management Director	416	441
Fire Department	24400	42300
Safety Complex	14125	14925
Emergency Medical Services	8550	17000
Inspector Salary	14418	3600
Building Inspector Salary	0	12118
Inspector Expense	1250	2300
Tree Warden Expense	2000	2000
Tree Warden Salary	600	625
Animal Inspector Salary	0	800
Animal Control Officer Salary	0	1625
ACO/Inspector Salary	2400	0
Animal Control Officer Expenses	300	200
HEALTH & SANITATION		
Hilltown Resource Mgt. Coop.	4269	4269
Board of Health Salary	300	375
Board of Health Expense	500	500
Foothills Health District	14544	15994
DEBT & INTEREST		
Long Term Debt(hwygarage&fire truck)	149000	148000
Long Term Debt(hwy truck&schl roof)	0	80000
Interest Long Term Debt	6115	22894
UNCLASSIFIED		
Insurance & Bonds	80850	82550
Town Offices	24450	26450
Information Technology Support	1000	7600
Council on Aging	2925	3025
COA Coordinator	1117	2279
Historical	1200	1200
County Retirement	157240	174669
Council of Governments	761	761
Pioneer Valley Planning Council	242	242

Unemployment (Art 13)	18000	19000
Group Insurance	345000	345000
OPEB Trust Fund	5000	5000
Medicare	26500	27825
Reserve Fund	10000	10000
TOTAL OPERATING	**4857354**	**5278591**
NON-OPERATING (CAPITAL)		
Town Hall Paint (Art 12)	0	30000
Tanker Truck (Art 17)	0	30000
Firefighter Protective Gear (Art 16)	0	5000
SCBA's	35000	0
TOTAL NON-OPERATING	**28300**	**65000**
TOTAL OPERATING & NON-OPERATING	**5140354**	**5343591**

ARTICLES ON THE WARRANT
MAY 9, 2015 Annual Town Meeting
JUNE 6, 2015 Annual Election

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To elect by ballot necessary officers to serve the ensuing year and to vote on question 1

Question 1. Shall the town vote to have its elected Board of Health become an appointed Board of Health of the town?

Yes No

Selectboard	One for three years
Board of Assessors	One for three years
Planning Board	One for three years
Board of Health	One for three years
Board of Health	One for two years
Board of Health	One for one year
Finance Committee	Four for three years
Hampshire Regional School Committee	One for three years
Elementary School Committee	One for three years
Moderator	One for one year
Tree Warden	One for one year
Recreation Committee	One for three years
Recreation Committee	One for two years
Recreation Committee	One for one year
Library Trustees	Two for three years
Constable (Center District)	One for three years

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to accept by unanimous consent and without debate the following six articles or any combination of them: Article 4, Care of the Highways; Article 14, Unemployment Benefits; Article 16, short-term borrowing authorization; Article 19, Chapter 90 Highway Funds; Article 20, Fire Dept. revolving fund; Article 21,Cemetery revolving fund.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectboard.

ARTICLE 5: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L., which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 2016, or any

lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's capital assessment for Fiscal 2016, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school tuition, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school transportation, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to prepare and paint the exterior of the Town Hall, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide $19,000 to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money for Information Technology services for the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with approval of the Selectboard, to borrow funds from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2014, and in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4 and to issue notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to go towards the matching amount required for the procurement of new protective firefighting clothing contingent upon a successful award of an Assistance to Firefighters Grant and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to go towards the matching amount required for the procurement of a new Tanker Truck vehicle contingent upon a successful award of an Assistance to Firefighters Grant and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money as may be certified from available funds, due to the Town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund in not to exceed $2000 for the Fire Department, under MGL Chapter 44, sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed $6000 for the Westhampton Cemetery, under MGL Chapter 44, Sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Westhampton General Bylaws as follows:

Article 3-Elected Town Boards, Section 3-1-1: Delete "(c) Board of Health of three members, elected for overlapping three-year terms, in accordance with M.G. L. Chapter 41, Section 23."
Article 4-Power of Appointment, Section 4-5-2: Add sub-section "4-5-2 (g) Board of Health of three members appointed for overlapping three-year terms, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 1B".
Article 3-Elected Town Boards, Section 3-1-1: Increase the board membership "(f) a School Committee of five members, elected for overlapping three year terms".
Article 3-Elected Town Boards, Section 3-1-1: Delete "(e) a Recreation Committee of three members, elected for three overlapping terms".
Article 3-Elected Town Boards, Section 3-2-1: Delete "The Recreation Committee shall develop and improve the recreational facilities of the town, and shall be responsible for the operation of the Westhampton Recreation Center."

NOTE: This is a preliminary list of articles for the Annual Town Meeting; it is subject to change and/or additions. The final warrant will be posted at least seven days before the Annual Town Meeting, May 9.

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

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